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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 28 - August 2008
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SOFIA SO GOOD

Dragon's Pz.Kpfw 38(t) Ausf.G in Bulgarian service

SURVIVING STORM

Full size reference on the Wirbelwind

GENERAL MEETING

Detailing Tamiya's 1:48 Sherman M4A1

STALIN'S GIANT

Kev Smith builds and wrecks Tamiya's all new JS-2

PREVIEWS: AFV SHOT KAL ■ REVELL UNIMOG ■ 1:16 KV-2 ■ AND MORE...

August 2008 / £3.95 / Issue 28

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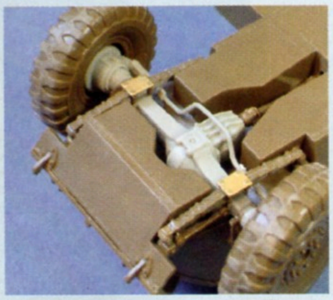
SHIZUOKA SHOW NEWS

Some news in brief as to what to expect from the model manufacturers in the coming months, from Tamiya we have a 1:16 Radio Controlled Panzer IV to join the growing ranks of their R/C range and in 1:35 we have an all new Panzer II and a re-issued Ford GPA which now includes a set of ICM's excellent Russian Crew Figures at Rest.

Dragon have been as productive as ever with new versions of the Panther Ausf. D and Sherman along with a much needed Brummbar.

Revell have announced the Mercedes Wolf Light Utility Vehicle in 1:35 which will tie in nicely with their range of Modern Bundeswehr military vehicles. We will include more updates as we get them.



RESICAST

Graham at Resicast has been keeping very busy producing some excellent detail and stowage sets for some of the latest Allied armour including Academy's Priest and the Staghound Armoured Cars from Bronco and Italeri.

35.2294 UK Priest stowage Contains over 60 resin parts, enough for two different vehicles.
35.2295 Priest spent ammo Contains over 60 resin parts.
35.2300 Staghound stowage No.1 Contains 67 resin and 46 photo etched parts, enough for two different vehicles.
35.2301 Steering for Italeri Staghound Contains 7 resin parts.

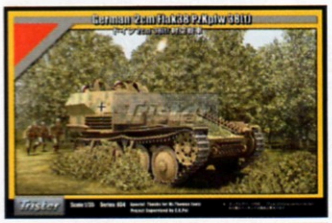
For more information and the full range of Resicast products go to: *www.resicast.com* direct and are available in the UK from *www.historexagents.com*

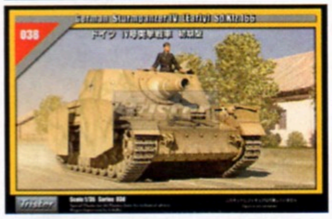
HOBBYBOSS

Great news for fans of armour used during the Vietnam War as HobbyBoss have announced the future release of the 82418 M706 (V100) Commando Armoured Car. The HobbyBoss range are distributed and available from Creative Models in the UK.

www.creativemodels.co.uk

MP
MILITARY POLICE


German 2cm Flak38 PzKpfw 38(t)
Tristar


German Sturmpanzer IV (Early) Sd.Kfz.166
038
Tristar

TRISTAR NEWS

We have just received Tristar's new 2cm early Flak38 and PzKpfw 38(t) mounting the 2cm flak gun and hopefully the much talked about Early Sturmpanzer Brummbar will be have arrived by the time you read this. Watch out for Darren Thompson's reviews in the next issue.

TS 35035 - German 2cm Flak38 PzKpfw 38(t)
TS35037 - 2cm Flak38 Early c/w Waffen SS Crew
TS35038 - German Sturmpanzer IV (Early) Sd.Kfz.166 Brummbar

Tristar products are distributed in the UK by Model Wholesale UK
Tel: +(44) 1892 680009
info@modelwholesaleuk.com
Please note Model Wholesale can only supply to trade.

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Military Catalogue
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DARTMOOR MINIATURES WEBSITE ON-LINE

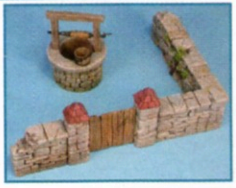
We are please to announce that Dartmoor Military Miniatures now have their web site up and running. Getting hold of these excellent 1:48 scale white metal figures has just got a whole lot easier thanks to the secure on-line ordering facility. For the full range please go to:
www.dartmoormilitarymodels.com

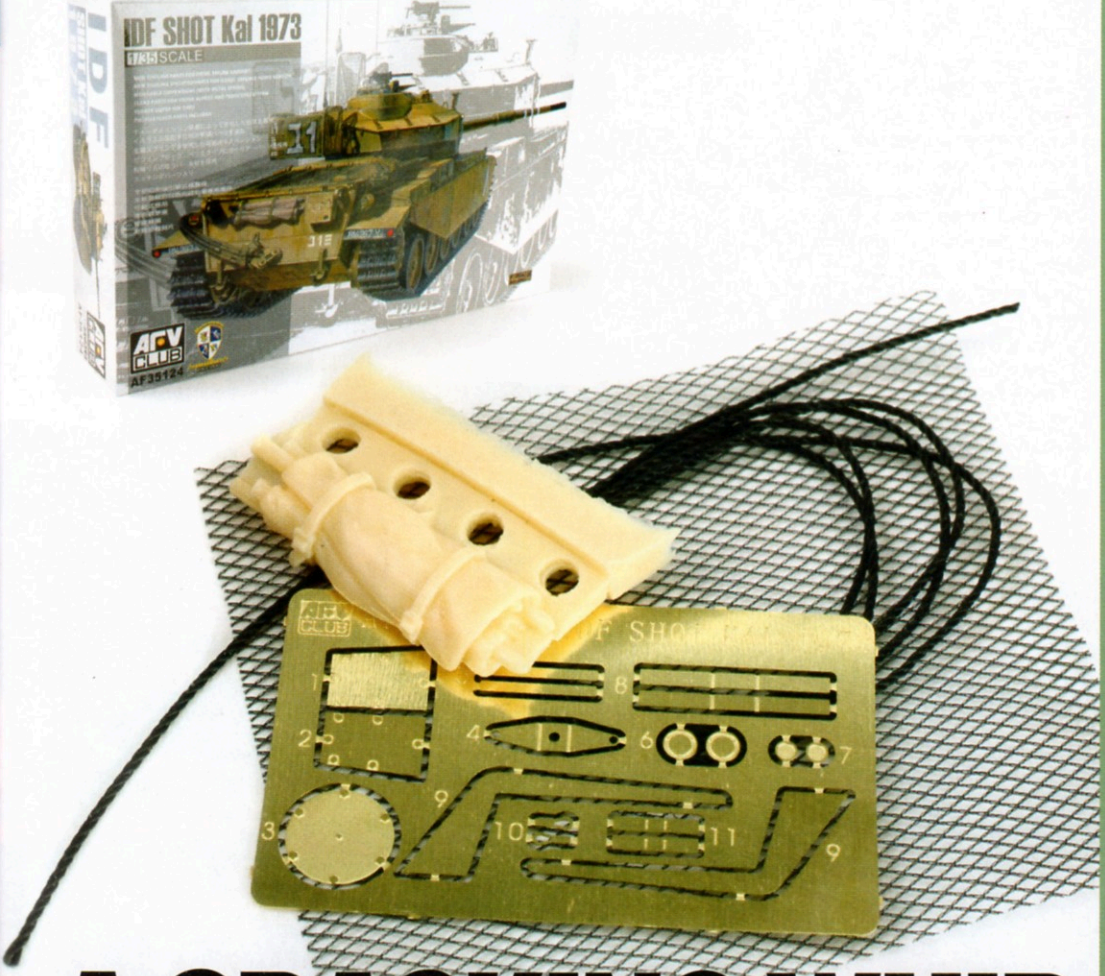
MASTER-FIGHTER

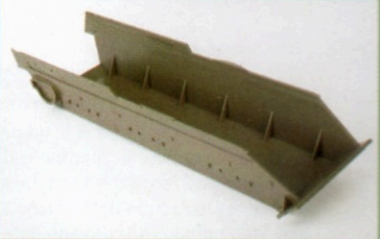
Just in from French manufacturer, Gaso.Line are three new items for their 1:48 wargamer and collectors range, Master-Fighter.

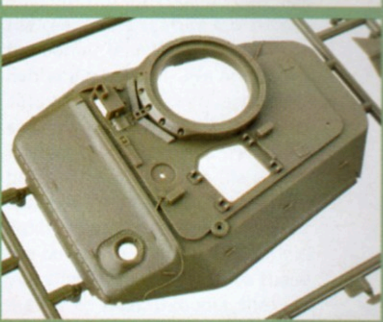
MF48503 - German armoured car Sd.Kfz.234/2 PUMA with crew 116 Pz.Div. (Normandy 1944)
MF48504 - German Krupp Protze Kfz. 69 with crew for 3.7cm Pak36 (France 1940)
MF48300 - Low wall with gate way and water well, ideal for 1/50-48-43th scale models

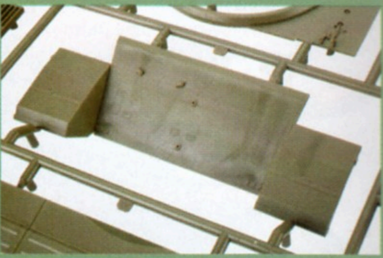
For more information and the full range of Gaso.Line and Master-Fighter products check out *www.gaso-line.eu* and *www.master-fighter.com*

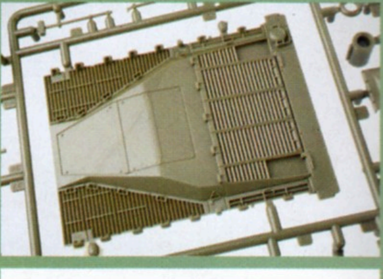


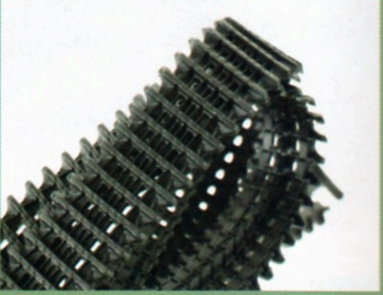












A CRACKING WHIP

AFV Club are steadily working their way through the range of Centurion tanks, **Graeme Carruthers** checks out the latest, the '73' Shot Kal.

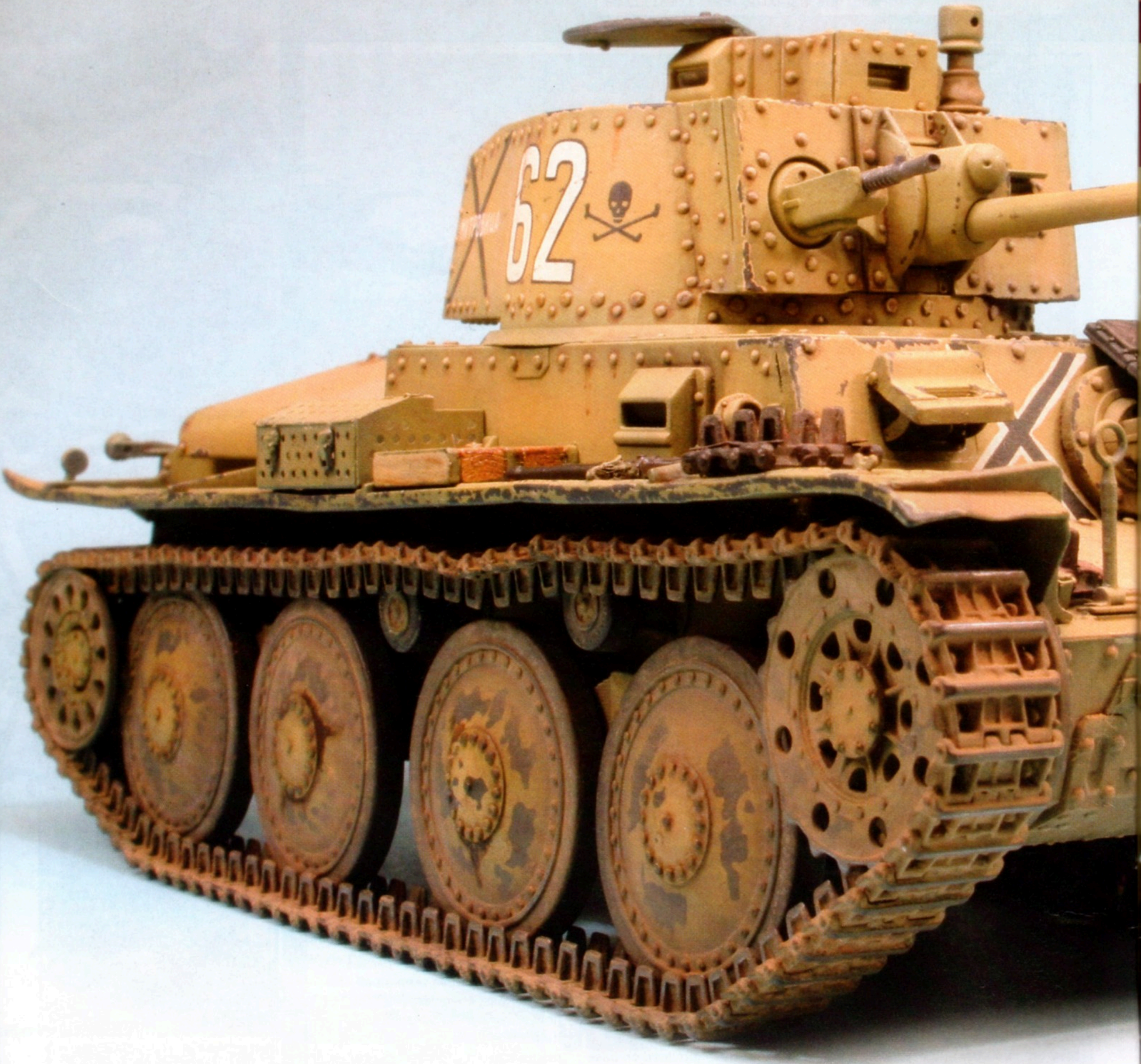
AFV Club's series of kits based around the British Centurion continue on unabated. If you have already built one of these kits then you will know that they are superbly engineered and very well detailed kits.

New to the range is what is known as the 'Upgraded Centurion'. The Israelis found that the tanks' British engine didn't perform very well in the hot Middle Eastern climate so they sent their tanks to the workshops where a new diesel-powered American engine was fitted. This engine was larger than the original engine and meant that the engine deck had to be replaced with a new one which was similar in appearance to that of the M48 and M60. Other fittings such as the air filter boxes on top of the track guards and American style lights on the front plate are some of the external features that help the modeller identify this version of the Israeli Shot, (Hebrew for Whip) from photos.

These upgrade features are where this kit differs from the earlier releases. A new sprue is provided which contains track guards that have moulded on base plates for the new air filters, the new extended hull rear plate, the new engine deck, a multi-part turret basket and all the other various new small fittings. A couple of other new small sprues contain the Israeli pattern jerry cans and holders and the end connectors for the towing cables. A bonus in the first batch of kits is the inclusion of a resin stretcher holder to be fitted to the rear plate although I am not sure if this part will be included with all kits or just with the early releases.

Like the earlier versions the kit has the 'love them or hate them' separate rubber rims for the road wheels and copper springs to be fitted into the suspensions units to make them 'workable'. Annoyingly the front mantlet is still provided without its canvas covering, a feature seen on all of these tanks, however AFV Club now provide this as a separate item as do various aftermarket manufacturers. The tracks are the rubber band type and are well detailed but again AFV Club sell an individual link set separately. The side skirts will cover most of the tracks if you do wish to use the rubber set provided, the skirts are a thin plastic and don't suffer from that bevelled edge that you would expect to see from a lesser manufacturer than AFV Club.

This kit is another great addition to the Centurion range and the inclusion of some separate panels on the engine deck do suggest that later variants such as the 1982 Blazer up-armoured version or possibly even a Puma may be in the pipeline. Very highly recommended. ■



SOFIA SO GOOD

Dragon have been busy releasing a whole host of models based on the 38(t) chassis. **Andy King** gets his hands on the new Ausf. G

After the German occupation in 1939 the Czechoslovakian tank factories of CKD came under the control of the German Heeres Waffenamt (Army Weapons Department). CKD had already received an order from the Czech Army prior to 1939 for 150 LT-38 light tanks so these were completed as Panzerkampfwagen (Pz.kpfw) 38(t) due to the Germans' need for additional light tanks. The series started (obviously) with the Ausfuhrung A and progressed up to the Ausf. G as depicted in the Dragon kit.

The 38(t) featured prominently in the invasion of Poland, France and Russia, serving in front line roles until 1942 after which it was more or less relegated to reconnaissance and training roles within the German Panzer units. However the chassis, as with a lot of German vehicles, was used for a whole host of variants including the Marder III SP gun, Flakpanzer 38(t) and of course the Hetzer. Ironically after the end of WW2 the 38(t) served with it's original intended customer, the Czech Army, up until 1950.

THE MODEL

In what has become a steady stream of German WWII armour subjects recently, comes this latest release from Dragon's 'Smart Kit' series of the Pz.kpfw 38(t) Ausf. G. The kit is very nicely moulded and incorporates Dragon's 'Slide-Moulding' technology on various parts, separate 'Magic' track links, a sheet of etch brass that incorporates tool clamps and various grilles plus a decal sheet with options for six vehicles. The kit also includes a full interior which is very nice too, although I doubt much will be seen through the open crew hatches as they are all on the small side.

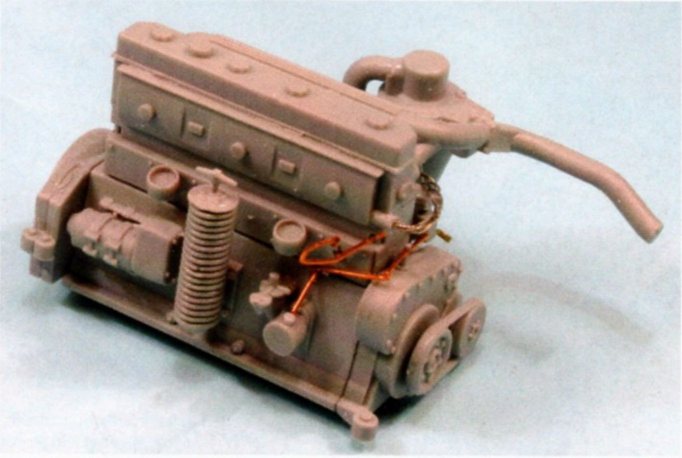
CONSTRUCTION

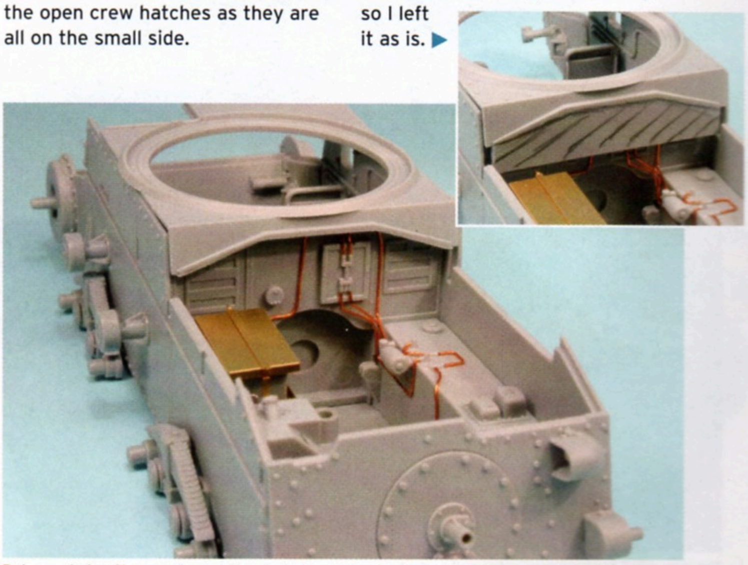
As this is a Smart-Kit I wanted to build it straight from the box without any of your fancy etch or resin aftermarket stuff. Construction starts reasonably enough with the running gear and the rear idlers feature (correctly) the earlier tear-drop shaped lightening holes. There are two sets of drive sprockets and leaf spring suspension units to choose from at this point and I went for parts A3 and A4 as on the other sprockets A24 and A25 the lightening holes are very close to the outer rim. For the leaf springs you should use parts A9 as these are for an Ausf. G model, the others are for earlier versions.

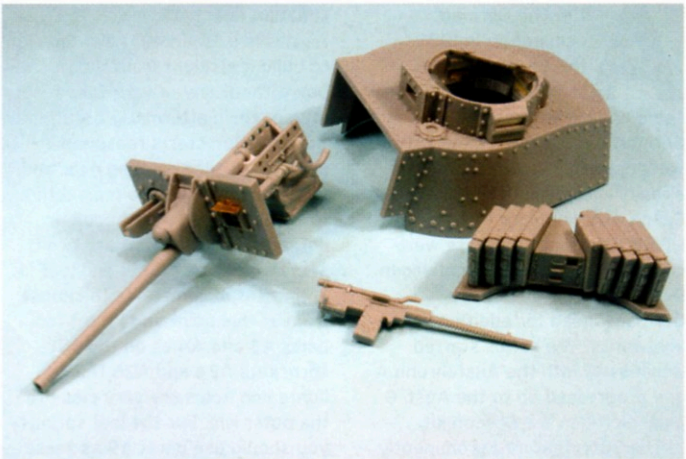
The road wheel tyres were roughed up a little to portray wear and tear then using 96 links per side the tracks were fitted. These were left to dry thoroughly before removing them as a complete assembly.

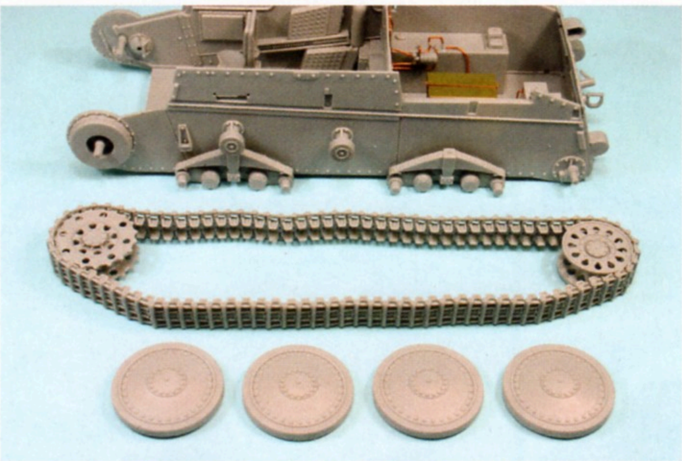
The rear hull is tackled next and rather oddly the instructions call out for the exhaust, smoke grenade discharger and other details to be fitted, however I would recommend that these be done nearer the end of construction as it's quite easy to knock them off. Also you need to fix the engine deck plate before the exhaust brackets.

Step 5 concerns the fitting of the fenders and this is where one of the problems start as regards to total accuracy and how bothered you are about it. The 38(t) fenders had an upward kink of 3 degrees about 50mm from the rear (scale plan size NOT actual) and Dragon have moulded these as straight. To correct it seems easy enough (just bend them) but I felt it would affect the fit of the fenders and associated detail to the hull, plus involve some filling and sanding so I left it as is. ▶


The author had to make several alterations to the engine to correct it before adding some extra detail in the form of fine copper wiring. A full description of the modifications are contained within the main text.


Before and after. If you are leaving the engine bay access hatches open then you need to remove the cross-hatched area shown in the upper photograph.


The turret components ready for final painting and assembly. Dragon have done a very good job of replicating the details of the Skoda A7 37.2mm main gun and the ZB53 7.92mm co-ax machine gun.


My method of assembling the tracks that makes painting easier. Notice that the return rollers are glued to the hull. This is done to help get the track sag into the correct place.

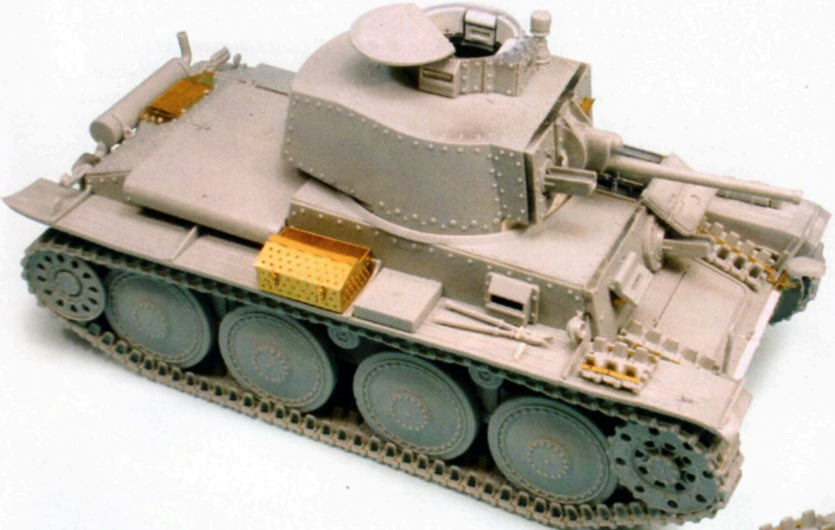
It can be done but that decision, dear reader, is entirely a matter for you. Of course another way around it is to inflict some heavy battle-damage which goes some way towards diverting attention from the issue.

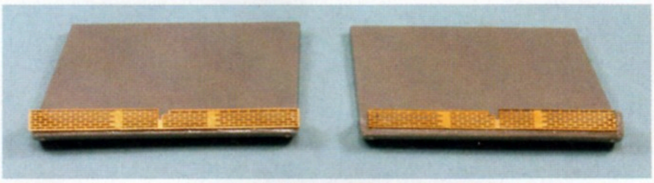
ENGINE

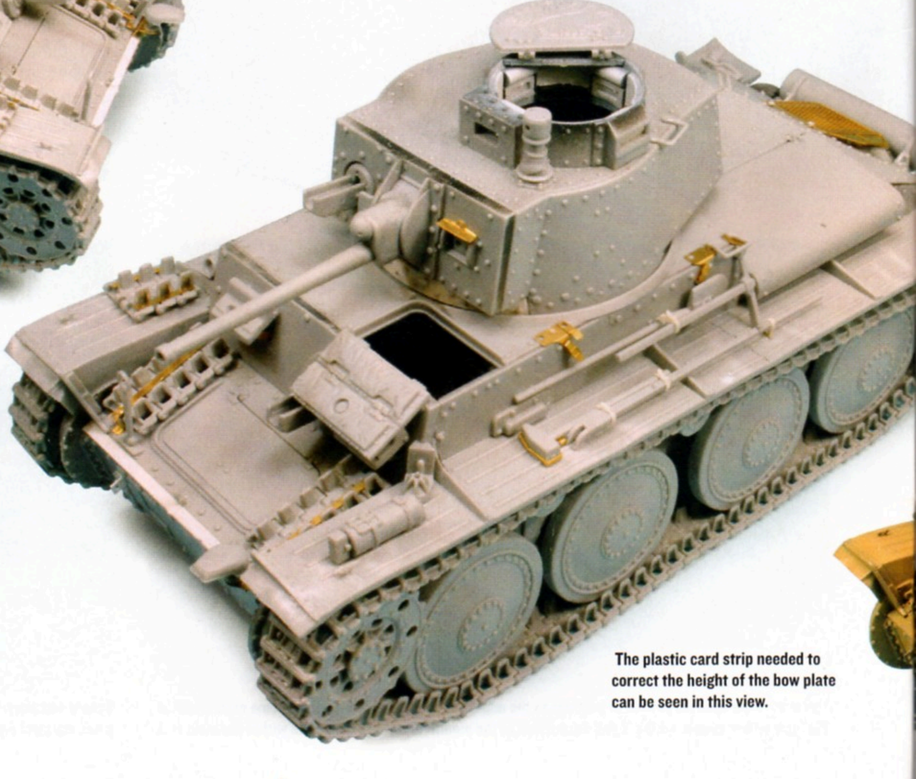
The engine is quite nicely detailed but unfortunately Dragon are very confused as to which bit goes where and reference pictures will be a must here. For example the instructions will have you glue part D1 to the block however it doesn't mention that part D10 needs to be fixed to D1 as well! Also Dragon will have you glue this assembly to the engine block 90 degrees out. It should be located via the small stub moulded on the side of D10 to the corresponding slot on the engine (at least the instructions show it in the right area). The same goes for the exhaust manifold D16 as the instructions show it to be glued to the side of the engine. It does in fact need to be fixed to the top of D23. The top of the crankcase D17 should be glued to the top of D19 and not D20 as shown. Close but no cigar Dragon.....

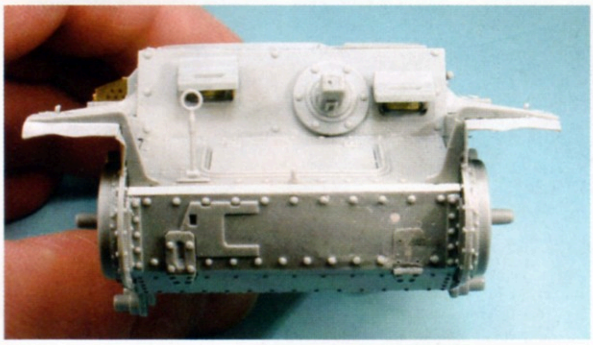
To dress the engine up further using the pictures for reference plus some artistic licence I made the various leads and pipes from wire. I left out the box with tools that is supposed to sit on top of the left fuel tank and moved the battery further up, adding the battery leads from wire. The rest of the interior goes together well and for what you will be able to see through the hatches is very well detailed. Just be aware that you need to fix the square of padding to the inside of the hull by the driver's station (part A 17), something that is shown in the instructions as being there but no actual clue as to what part to use.

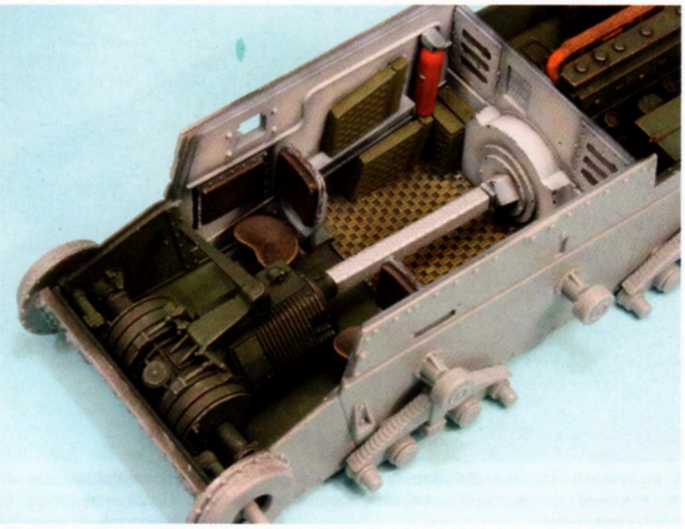
Thanks to the complete lack of painting instructions for the interior I had to do some digging



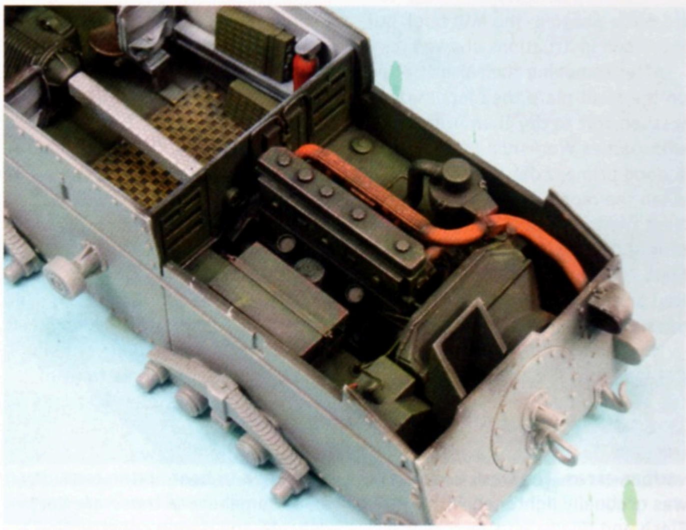

On the left is the P.E. Grille before. On the right the part after modification to it's length and some bevelling to the inside edge of the area where it fits.


The plastic card strip needed to correct the height of the bow plate can be seen in this view.


The plate detail has been removed as well as the towing hooks and four rivet holes drilled. Quite a delicate task and probably better done before the plate is glued to the hull. D'oh!



I'm sure this is something we have all been guilty of? Going to town painting an interior, only for most of it to disappear forever once the upper hull or superstructure if fixed in place.



The author has really brought out the best of the detail with some careful painting, colour washes and dry-brushing. Pastel chalks were used to create the realistic rust finish on the exhaust.

on the internet and (trying not to open a can of worms here) came to the conclusion (from a restored 38(t) that the walls and turret interior were white and the floors, transmission area etc a grey-green. I also used the grey-green for the engine bay and engine with various details picked out in other colours.

The rest of the build is a fairly straightforward affair however Dragon have done it again with regard to part numbering, in this case the turret and parts C10 and C11 need switching around. Staying with the turret part C25 which fits underneath is too short and needed replacing with plastic sheet. I also removed the rivets and bolt heads from the original piece to detail the new item.

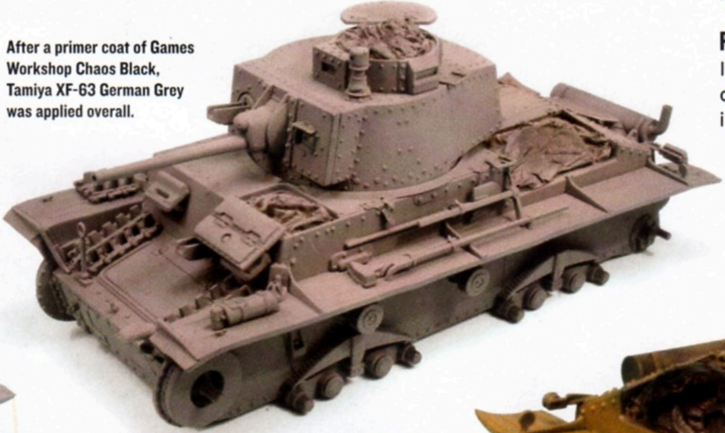
Fixing the upper hull plates wasn't too bad, however before gluing the rear plate B12 you will have to carve away some plastic from the bottom edge otherwise the part won't sit properly due to the proximity of the radiator. The front glacis plate was a bit tricky to fit (probably due to the transmission) and left me with a small step between its joint with the lower hull. I rectified this with a strip of thin plastic sheet to bring it level.

The P.E supplied for the tool clamps/straps I found to be too short and these were replaced by a double layer of masking tape cut into thin strips. I believe these were of a webbing type of material anyway so the masking tape would look more realistic.

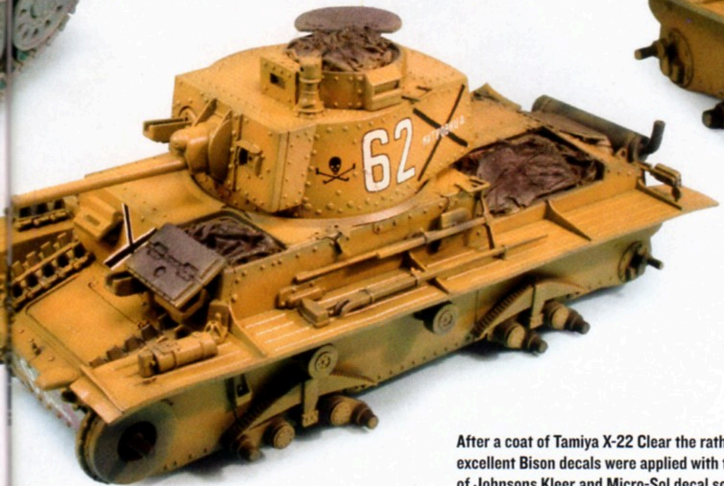
PAINTING

I was contemplating doing one of the six schemes from the instructions, either panzer grey, panzer grey, a rather spotty three tone camouflage, a Slovakian vehicle in overall dark yellow or panzer grey. But after leafing through the MBI book I saw a colour plate for a late-war Bulgarian vehicle that had a dark yellow finish applied directly over the original panzer grey. The accompanying photograph showed a very worn tank with lots of chipping...perfect.

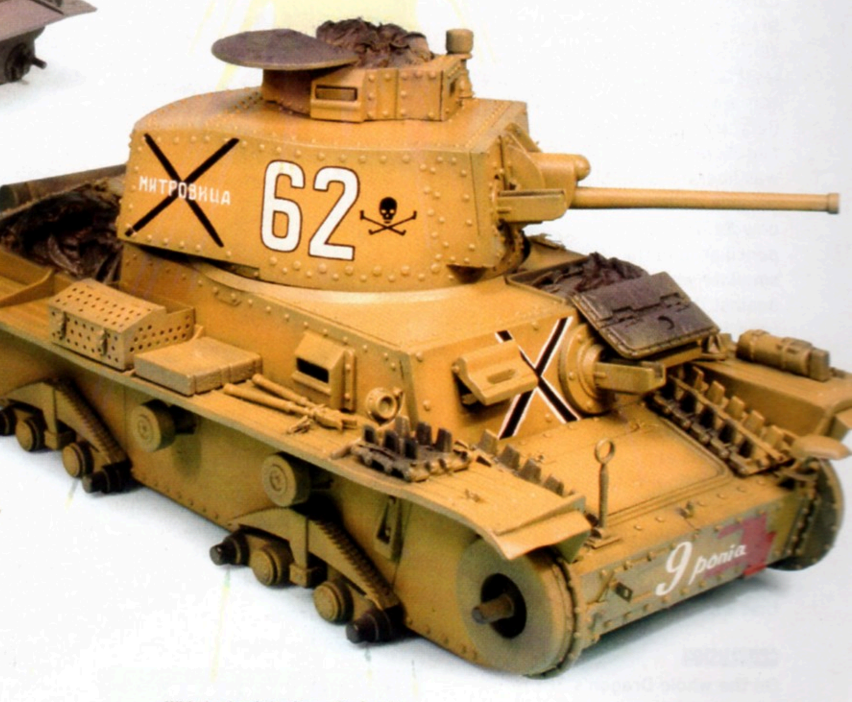
This particular vehicle was the subject of a decal sheet by Bison so after a quick phone call to Halifax Modellers World (cheers Daz and Dave) the decals landed on my doormat a couple of days later. Before painting however the front towing lugs needed removing as well as a plate on the right. I had not noticed this detail previously ▶



After a primer coat of Games Workshop Chaos Black, Tamiya XF-63 German Grey was applied overall.



After a coat of Tamiya X-22 Clear the rather excellent Bison decals were applied with the help of Johnsons Kleer and Micro-Sol decal solvent.



With the decals in place a final coat of Tamiya X-22 Clear was applied to protect them before the weathering could begin.

◀ from the photo in the MBI book but the Bison instructions showed it.

After removing the raised detail on the front plate the model was washed, left to dry then primed with Games Workshop Chaos Black. A good primer coat is essential when the model has P.E attached. Next the front plate was painted a primer red colour using Humbrol Matt 70 with a drop of Matt 60 Red and when dry the area of the missing plate masked off.

Next a base coat of XF-63 German Grey was sprayed over the entire model followed by XF-60 Dark Yellow but allowing the base coat to show through in various areas. The Dark Yellow was gradually lightened with XF-15 Flesh and finally with XF-2 White. A coat of X-22 Clear was sprayed overall and when dry the decals applied with the help of Johnson's Kleer. Bison decals are beautifully thin and went on very well but still needed a little help over the raised rivet detail with Micro-Sol decal solution. A final coat of X-22 Clear was applied and left to dry before the weathering process.

WEATHERING

The model was given a thinned overall wash of a 50/50 mix of Burnt Umber oil paint and Humbrol Matt 33 Black, with a pin-wash around various details after which a coat of Polyscale Matt Varnish was sprayed on. Paint chipping was achieved using Vallejo Iraqi Sand for lighter scratches with a 'blob' of German Grey in the middle for deeper ones.

Various shades of oil paint were dabbed on next and gently worked in using a brush moistened with white spirit. A mix of Humbrol Matt 29 Dark Earth/Matt 33 Black was sprayed onto the running gear, tracks and lower hull, then Mig Pigments European Earth was liberally applied followed by a rub over the tracks with graphite powder. I also used a graphite pencil around the wheel rims to simulate where the tracks rub against them. Pastel chalks were used for the rusty exhaust and spare track-links starting with black, different shades of brown and then finally orange. Black chalk was also worked into corners, panel lines etc.

All the final details such as the onboard tools were painted and weathered, the turret and hull machine guns fitted along with the antenna made from brass rod and that was that.

CONCLUSION

On the whole Dragon's 38t is a lovely little model and to me captures the look of the vehicle quite well even though the fenders are straight. The interior detail is very nicely done, although even with all the hatches open you can't see very much. Still it's a welcome inclusion especially for possible dioramas of a 38t under heavy maintenance or wrecked.

Fit of parts is generally good although there are a couple of areas mentioned in the text where some head-scratching was involved and again Dragon include optional parts but no mention as to what goes where and good references are very much recommended. As a final thought it would be a good idea to beef up the rear idler axles somehow as these are very delicate and during construction I managed to break one of them off completely. Also as the axles are not strong enough the rear idlers will pull outwards slightly when the track is fitted. All in all though it was an enjoyable build and definitely recommended! ■

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Marc Reusser for kindly sending me interior pictures and the web link to the photo's of the engine and Darren and Dave at Halifax Modellers World for supplying the Bison decal sheet.

Modelspec

Dragon Pz.kpfw 38 (t) Ausf G w/interior   Kit No. 6290

Accessories

Bison Decals BD-35040 Bulgarian tanks.

Paints used

Tamiya XF-2 White, XF-15 Flesh, XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-63 German Grey, X-22 Clear. Humbrol Matt 29 Dark Earth, Matt 33 Black; Matt 60 Red, Matt 70 Brick Red. Games Workshop Chaos Black. Polyscale Flat Varnish. Vallejo 995 German Grey, 819 Iraqi Sand.

References

Panzer Tracts No.18 Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) Ausf A to G and S by Thomas L. Jentz and Hilary Louis Doyle. ISBN 0-9771643-6-5

Encyclopaedia of German Tanks of World War Two by Peter Chamberlain and Hilary Doyle. ISBN 1-85409-518-8

Praga LT vz.38. Pz.Kpfw 38(t) by Vladimir Francev and Charles K. Kliment. MBI Publications ISBN 80-902238-2-6

http://www.plusmodel.cz/gallery/133/index_en.php

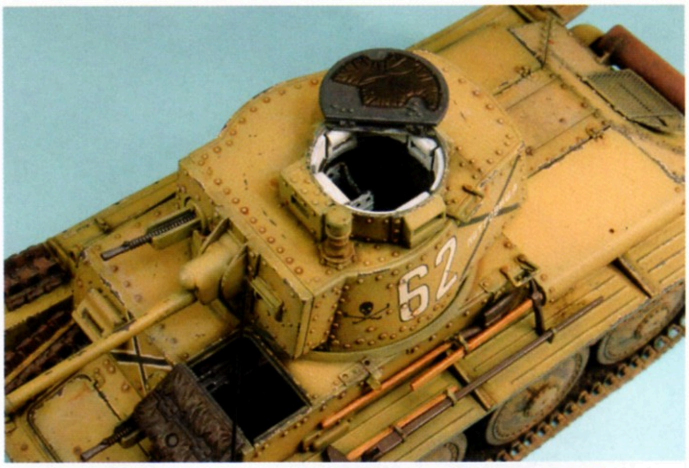
✓ Very nicely detailed interior.

✗ Some confusion with the instructions in places. Complete lack of painting guide for the interior. Straight fenders instead of kinked.

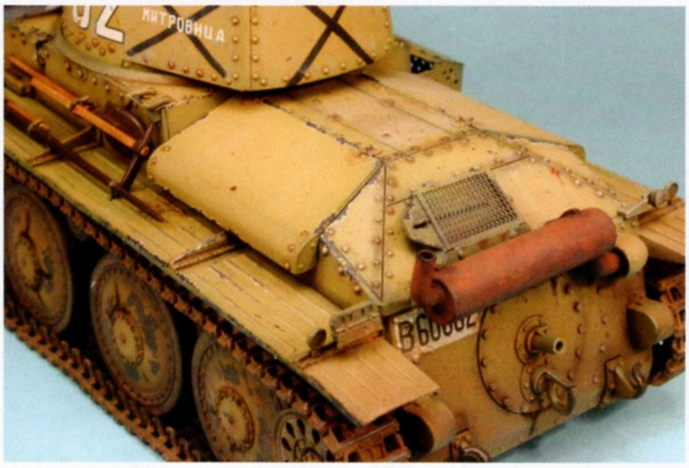
Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

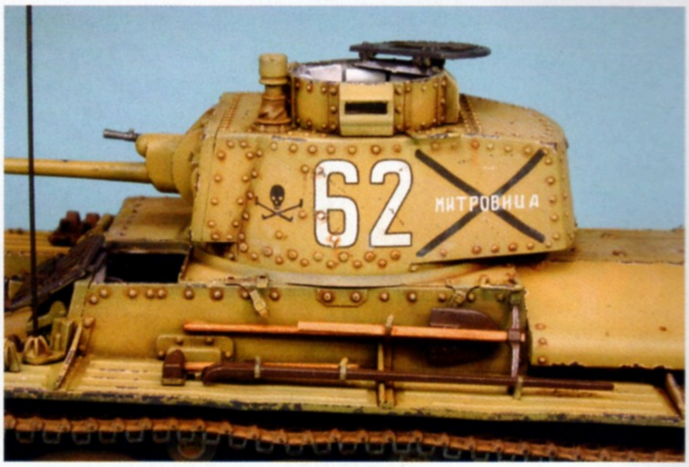
Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



As can be seen from this angle of the finished model, not much of the interior remains visible. Note how the oil paint colour wash has helped to emphasize the numerous rivets used on the vehicle's construction.

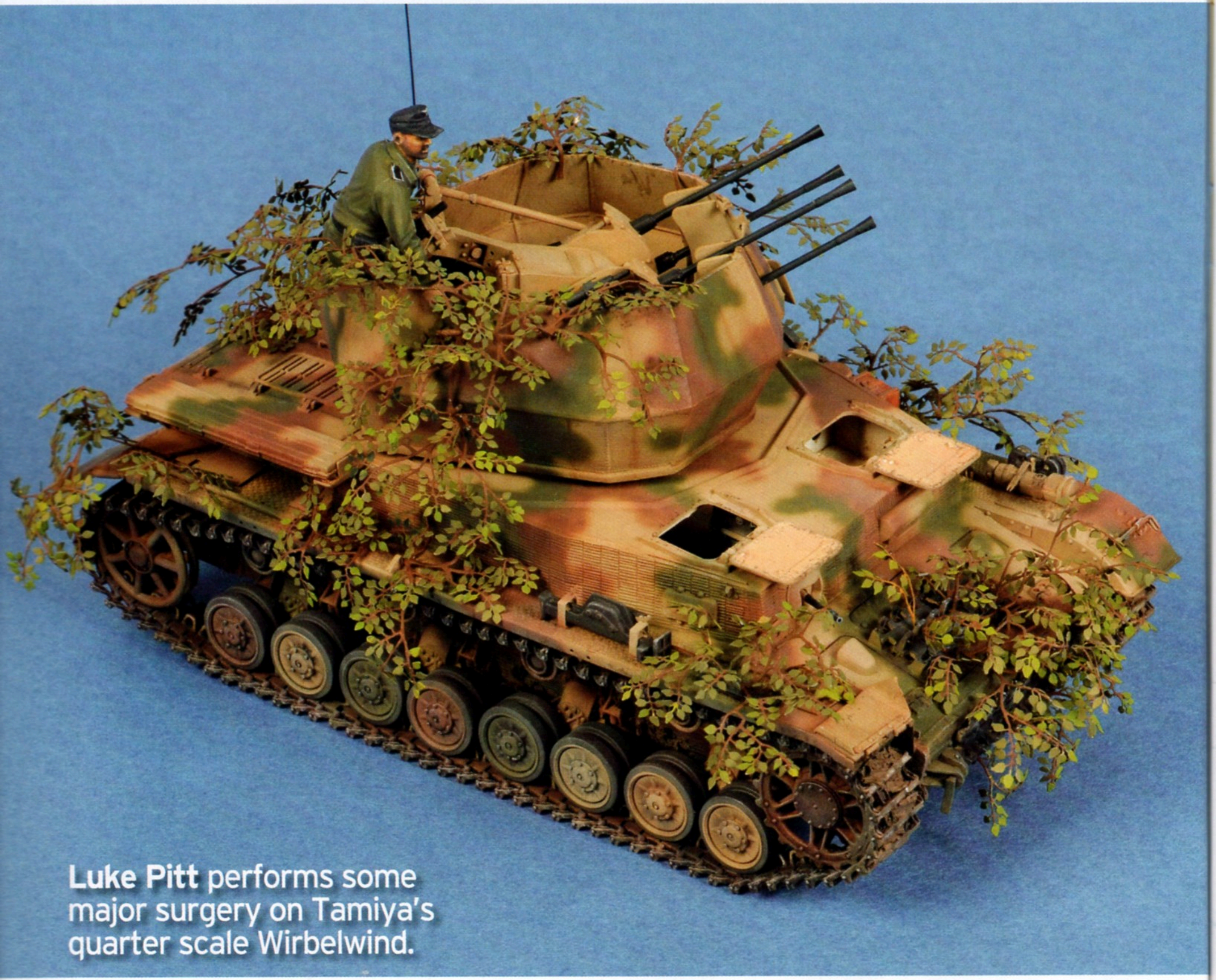


The worn paint effect on the fenders and engine deck was achieved by first painting the scratches and chips in Vallejo Iraqi Sand, followed by filling the centre of these areas with German Grey to simulate the bare metal showing through.



The Bison Decals look excellent once in place and replicate the 'painted on' look perfectly. Micro-Sol was used to get the decals to snuggle down over the raised details.

62
МИТРОВИЦА



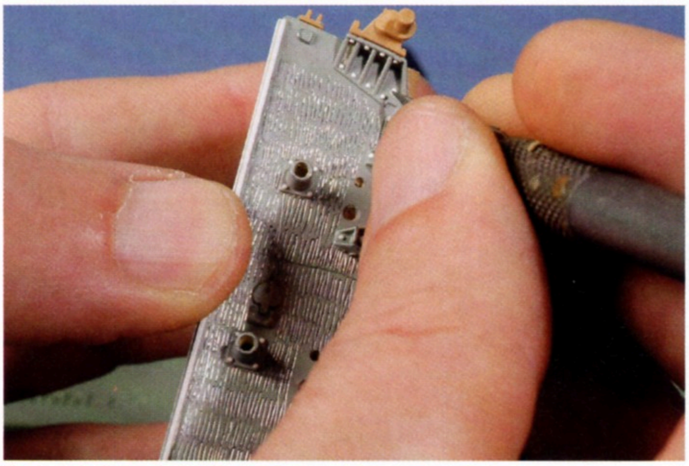
Luke Pitt performs some major surgery on Tamiya's quarter scale Wirbelwind.

FLAK STORM

The Tamiya 1:48 Wirbelwind has been out for quite a while now and has been reviewed by myself in the July 2007 of this Magazine. It will not be my intention to review the model again but rather comment on a number of improvements and accessories I have added to and describe its building and painting. I decided from the onset that I wanted to use a number of accessories that I had accumulated and actually put them on to a kit.

THE BUILD

The Tamiya kit is basically a sound and dimensionally accurate model but has a number of minor things that would benefit from some detailing. I started with the hull. I removed the mudguards as these were going to be replaced with etch items. When this was done, I found the transmission plate came away from the hull, so I super glued this directly onto the lower metal hull. I then drilled out the flush screw holes around the transmission access panel as per the drawings in Achtung Panzer No.3 and then inserted the screw heads in the Lion Marc model designs accessory set LM60006. This set includes a correctly sized drill bit so their application is painless and really lifts the detail level on this part of the vehicle. I used the Part etch set 'P48-018' on this build and like most etch sets, it looks fantastic on the fret but has a number of flaws. The rear mud flaps for example have only some of the leading edges supplied and as a result, I had to make these out of 5 thou strip. The rear spring mounts were not included so I coiled very thin fuse wire to form a spring and added these and the mounts also. The front mud flaps also exhibit a number of failings with the most noticeable being the rolled edge. I bent this part up and added this edge with thin fuse wire and blended it in with liquid putty. The hinge pins are provided in a flat etch form and needed to be replaced. I have used thin fuse wire and tube for this. Last of all



The zimmerit effect on the metal lower hull was created by using a jeweller's engraving tool. If you don't fancy trying this technique, Polish company Atak produce a set in resin.

I added a 30 thou strip of plastic to the metal hull (this is necessary because when you cut away the guards from the top of the hull some of the hull depth is lost). One of the flaws on the Tamiya Kit is when you join the upper and lower hull together, you will note you will have a stepped edge on the front of the hull where the top and bottom of the hull meets. When looking at the various photos of Panzer IV's in the field I found that there was no such step. To resolve this, I then added a thin strip of plastic card to fill the step and blended it in with the aid of Tamiya putty and sandpaper.

ZIMMERIT

My attention was then focused on the lower hull and while looking at pictures of the Wirbelwind I noted that most had zimmerit applied. I racked my brain to find a suitable method for the metal hull. I started my working life as a jeweller and as a result had some hand engraving experience. I found to my delight I still had one of my old hand engraving tools from that period and proceeded to engrave the lower hull with zimmerit. This did not take all that long and was done fairly roughly as most of it would be covered it mud and grime. When complete (and feeling pretty proud of myself) I noted that the Polish company Atak had just released a zimmerit set for the Panzer IV. Looking at the photos on the internet I noted they had included the lower hull zimmerit and it looked very much better than mine (don't you hate when that happens!). I had already purchased the Voyager Model etch VPE48012 update for the Panzer IV which included zimmerit and had tried to match my engraving to their set so I was not about to go and purchase their set because it looked better. I pressed on.

HULL DETAILING

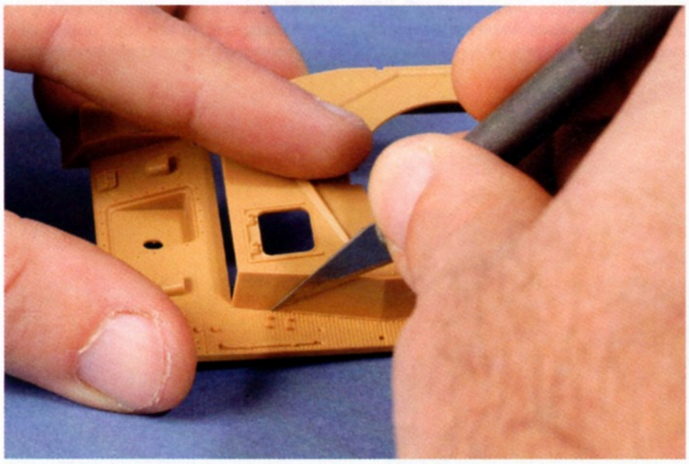
The Tamiya cast metal lower hull lacks many of the bolt heads that are evident on Panzer IV's so I turned to my trusty Waldron sub-miniature Punch and Die set and produced all the rivet and bolt heads for the lower hull. I attached these with super glue. I used the 'puddle' method by pouring a puddle of super glue on a suitable surface like a disposable metal cake tray and picking up the end of the rivet with the pointy end of an Excel blade dipping it with the bolt attached and placing it onto the hull. Unlike liquid glue you have only one chance to get this right, so it took me a few attempts to get the effect I was after.

In my review of the Tamiya Whirlwind I had noted that the turret on this kit was incorrect in its mounting of the 2cm Guns. On the real vehicle the gun was mounted on a platform supported by two 'I' beams fixed to the hull with the gun pivoting on its 360o axis via this static mount. I decided to scratch build this mount as I wanted to show the turret in a slightly traversed position. I first made the 'I' beams out of 10 thou plastic card and then the mount itself. My main reference source for this was the Allied and Axis (No.1) Book, which had some very good internal pictures of this mount. At this stage, I thought it was a good idea to show the front driver and radio operator's access hatches open, so I then proceeded to scratch build a full front half interior. My intention was to do this as a 'drop in' module to allow for easier painting. When complete I noticed the upper hull access points for the driver and radio operator were a little thick, so I sanded the inside surface of the hull to give the openings a more scale-like appearance. I then painted the interior an off white colour with the fighting compartment in a buff sand mix. The entire area was then weathered with an oil paint wash.

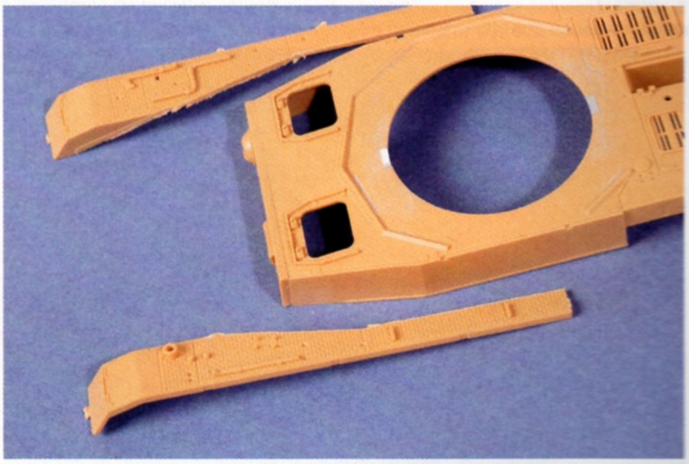
When this was complete, I joined the upper and lower hulls together and attached the previously shaped Part fenders to the hull. At this stage I noticed a few gaps and proceeded to fill them with Tamiya putty mixed with a little Testors liquid glue. When attaching the etch zimmerit with a slow set gel superglue, I noted that at the front of the vehicle where the upper and lower hulls meet, the Voyager zimmerit was ever so slightly short. This has been caused by me correcting the Tamiya Hull joint. I cut a small portion of etch zimmerit from the very lowest front panel of zimmerit supplied and attached it to the top section. My reasoning behind this was that the lower portion would be covered in mud build up from the weathering process and would not be seen.

TURRET TROUBLES

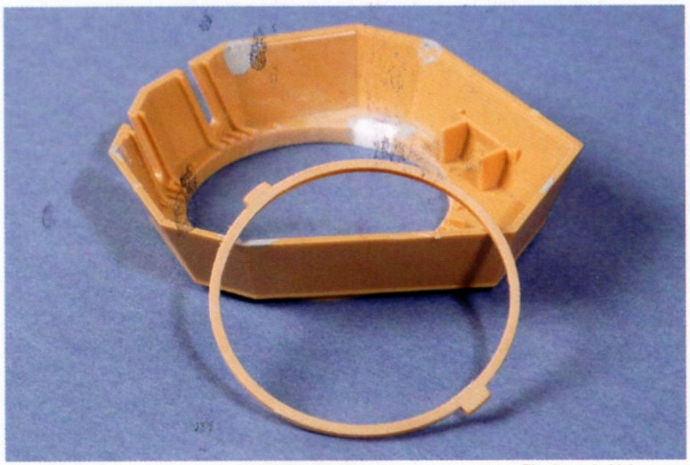
The next step of the build process was to work on the turret. As mentioned in my review the turret has a number of flaws (none of which is major) but these got under my skin so I tried to fix them. The first was to cut away the lower gun mount. When doing this you will note the depth of the turret ring is pretty deep and has been moulded this way to include the inaccurate gun mount. I cut this away and reduced the depth by rubbing it back on a piece of sandpaper mounted on a flat board. I then filled the gaps left by the side mounted loader's seats. The lower turret ring was then detailed with bolt heads as per the references. The upper turret was thinned to almost half its thickness by sanding it from the inside surface. The upper and lower halves were then glued with stretched sprue weld beads added to the inside face of the turret. I noted that when the turret was together the lower square section of the turret race was undersize compared to the photographic reference. I shaved away this feature from the kit and replaced it with a 40 thou strip. A very prominent feature of the Wirbelwind turret is the weld beads where the angled armour plates meet. I have used a relatively new product here and that is the Archer ▶



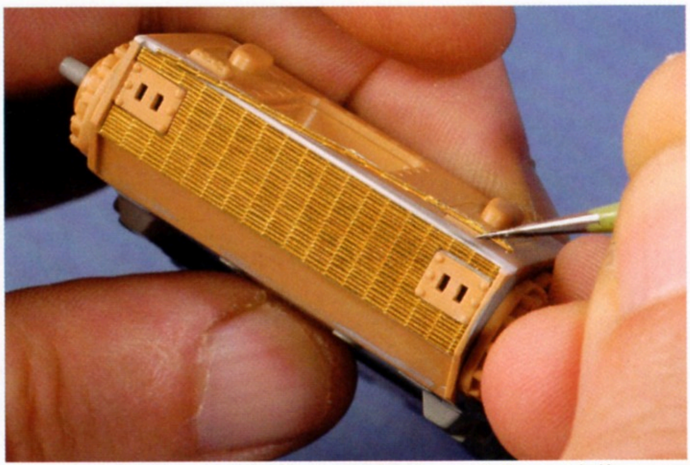
As the author was going to replace the kit mud guards with etched brass items, the first thing to do was to carefully remove them by repeatedly drawing a hobby knife along the lower edge of the hull sides.



As a result of removing the mud guards the transmission plate came away from the front of the hull. The author glued this part directly to the lower hull before assembling the rest of the model.

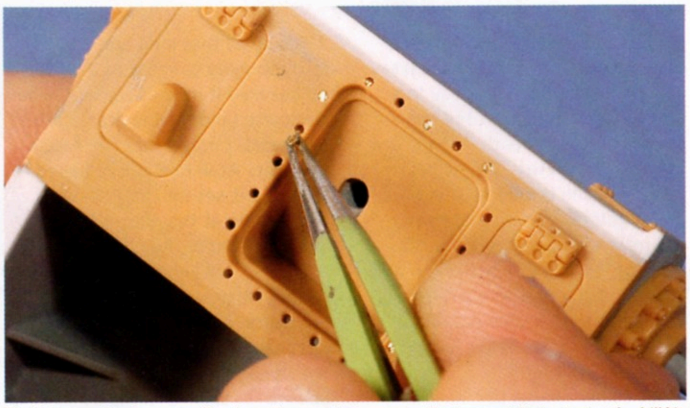


The author noted that the turret suffered from a number of minor inaccuracies. The first of which involved reducing the depth of the turret ring.

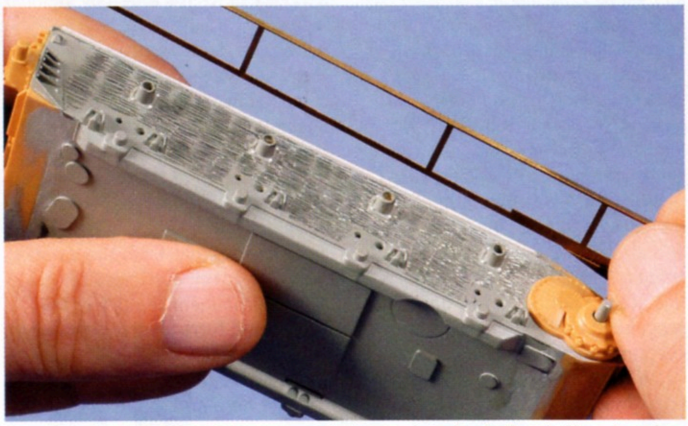


For zimmerit effect on the bow plate and superstructure the author used the Voyager etched brass zimmerit (VPE48012). This was attached using a slow setting superglue to allow correct alignment.

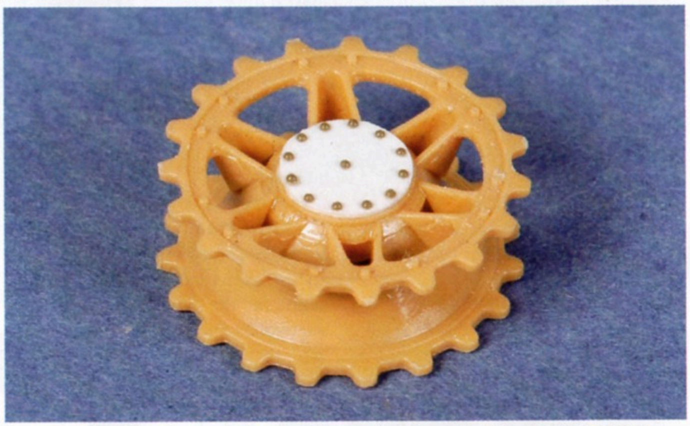
The author used these incredibly small turned brass screws from Lion Marc Model Designs accessory set LM60006.



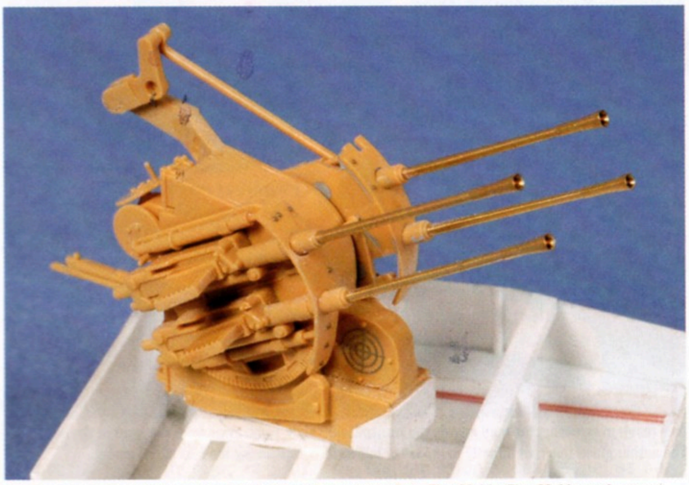
The kit's screw heads surrounding the main transmission access hatch were drilled out using the drill bit supplied in the set. The tiny Lion Marc screws were then fitted and fixed in place with 'super glue'.



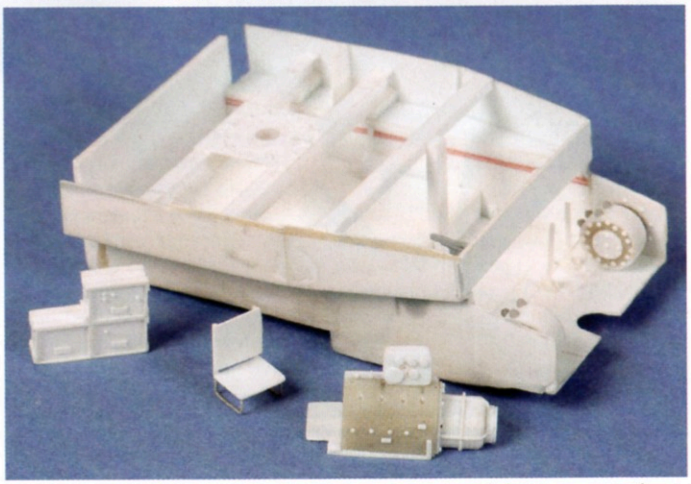
As mentioned earlier the kit fenders were removed and were to be replaced with etched brass items from the Part detailing set (P48-018).



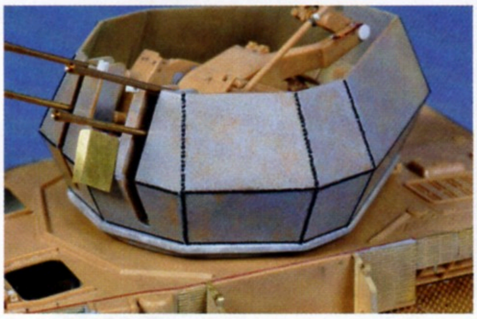
The centre hubs of the drive sprockets suffered from shallow sink marks. The author rectified this by adding a five thou disc of plastic card before adding new bolt heads.



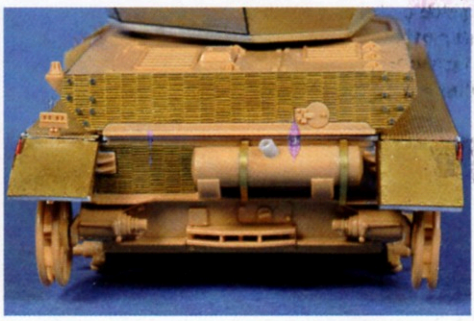
The 2cm gun barrels were replaced with turned brass items from Fine Molds. Fine Molds products are distributed in the UK by Model Wholesale UK (www.modelwholesaleuk.com).



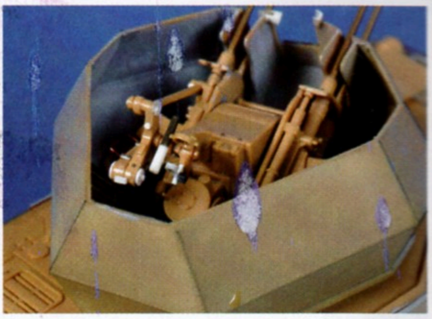
The author noted from his reference that the mounting for the 'quad twenties' was wrong, so set about scratch building the correct mounting along with an entire fighting compartment interior!



Archer's excellent Surface Detail Arc Weld Beads No.6 was used to replicate the rough weld seams as seen on the real turret.



The Voyager etched brass zimmerit can be seen to good effect in this shot. The brass fenders from Part did require some re-working.



The gun sight on the quad twenties was in need of extra detailing in the form of plastic card and rod.

Surface Detail Arc Weld Beads No. 6 set. I generally mask these areas off and add a slurry of filler and liquid glue but this set looked like a real time saver so I decided to use them. The set provides the weld beads in decal form and have a true "3D" appearance. The application of these proved to be rather tricky and after my first attempt I decided to use the following approach. I first measured the weld bead. With the aid of a set of dividers (taken from my son's school set). I then cut it to the desired length, then trimmed all the decal film off right up to the edge of the bead. The beads were then applied in the usual decal method but once dry I coated them with Future floor polish and then left to dry. The entire turret was then sprayed with Tamiya Surface Primer (with all the problem areas attended to with either sandpaper or filler). At this stage I then added the Hauler Set HLX48199 which includes some quite amazing ammunition bins. These really add a certain finesse to the turret interior. The rest of this set is made up of detail parts as well as most of the exterior and is one of the very few etch sets where I have used up the entire fret.

QUAD TWENTIES

The last phase of the building process is detailing the Quad 2cm Flak guns. On close inspection this gun and in fact the entire sprue is a pantographed copy of the old Tamiya 1:35 scale offering with all its inherent flaws. The lower gun elevation system, for example, is a little off. Tamiya would have you believe it was done by a gearing system with the aid of cogs but the real gun used a system of steel cables and was a little different than what is provided in the kit. All this being said however, the upper half of the gun is fairly accurate and basically that is all you will ever see on a Wirbelwind. The gun sight or 'schwebekreisser' is moulded as a solid piece but thankfully the Hauler update provides the sight. I added to my example the sight used for engaging ground targets as well as cutting the link-arm and detailing it. I then added the various nuts and bolts as seen in the reference photos. The Hauler HLX48205 set provided the 2cm ammunition magazines that I have placed in the racks inside the turret. The barrels for the guns have been replaced with the Fine Molds items and are a slight improvement over the kit items, but sadly do not provide the little slots in the flash suppressors. The last item on this kit to be detailed, was the front drive hub assemblies. The Tamiya kit has a shallow sink mark on the drive face. I decided to rid myself of this problem by blanking it off with five thou plastic card and adding the bolt detail. The running gear was then added to the lower hull with the only thing left off being the World War II Production tracks. The entire model was then washed in soapy water and left to air dry for a few days. The last step was to coat the entire model with Tamiya Surface Primer in preparation for the painting process.

CREWMAN

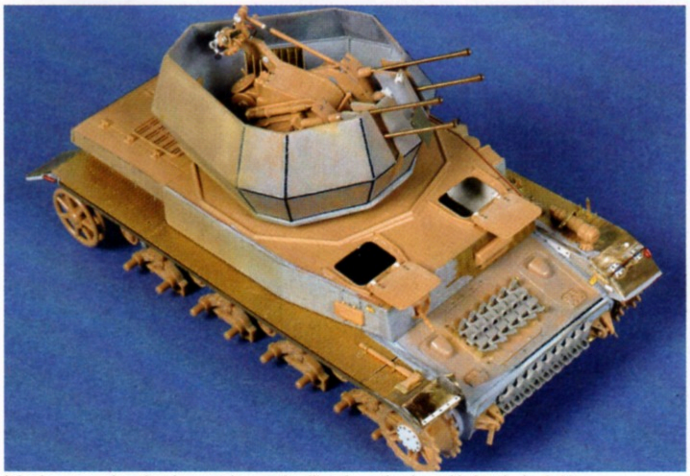
The figure is an amalgam of the ICM RAF Pilot and Ground Crew set 48081 and was made to fit by cutting and filling to fit onto the turret rim. Various parts of the arms and legs of this figure were sculpted from Milliput. The figure was then painted in the usual way.

PAINTING

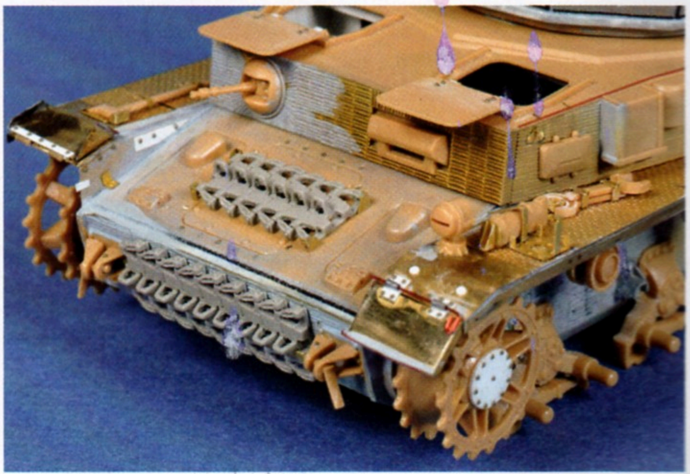
The model was sprayed with a Tamiya Dark Yellow XF-60 mixed with equal parts of Tamiya Buff XF-57 with a little White XF-2 added to tone it down. This was done after a discussion with one of my modelling friends and it was our conclusion that a lot of German armour had more of a Buff colour than a yellow colour that is often seen. The paint was thinned to a ratio of 30% paint 70% thinner. I generally spray with a higher psi air mix than most (in my case 35 psi) for the first pass, as I tend to do a few light coats rather than one thick coat. I then sprayed Tamiya XF-58 toned down with XF-59 for the first camouflage colour. It is important at this stage to achieve a sharp contrast between the sand and the green camouflage colours but still maintain a feathered edge. Remember we are working in 1:48 scale and the tolerances have to be finer than they are for 1:35. The trick is to turn down the pressure on the airbrush to around 12 psi and thin the paint even further to a 20% paint 80% thinner mix. Spray your line in an inward direction so the demarcation between the sand and green is the sharpest you can make it. The final camouflage colour of red brown can now be applied, I have used XF-9 toned down with XF-52 which was applied in the same way as the green.

WASHES

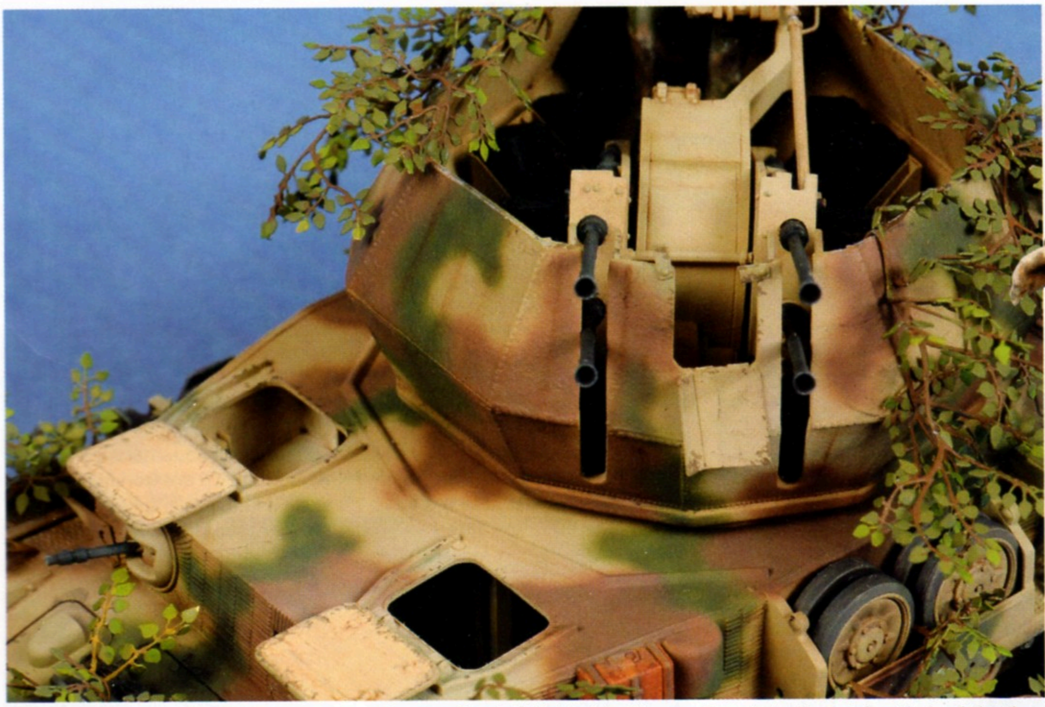
When this stage is complete, I mixed a wash of Black XF-1 and Red Brown XF-64 together in an equal mix thinned with 85% thinner at 20 psi and spray all the recesses of the tank with careful application ensuring the spray pattern is angled toward the outside of each of the recesses. I find it is best to hand paint the rubber road wheels and tracks while this assembly is off of the tank. I purchased a silver pen from my local news agent and found if I added this to the ends on the contact points of the tracks it looked very convincing. For the road wheels and general detail painting, I tend to use Humbrol Enamels as I have found them to be more opaque than acrylics and



It is clear to see here just how much extra detailing the author has added to the basic kit.



The link and length tracks in the kit were replaced with individual link resin items from WWII Productions. Unfortunately these are out of production. However Friulmodel do produce white metal tracks for the 1:48 Panzer IV, available from historex Agents.



An entire fret of Scale-Link's photo etched foliage was used to camouflage the Wirbelwind. The foliage was first primed with a coat of metal primer before the branches were 'thickened up' with Liquitex. This product is PVA based, so remains flexible and won't crack while the branches are shaped.

The crewman was made up using figure parts from ICM's RAF Pilot and Groundcrew set (48081). Milliput was used to blend the parts together.

generally, you only have to paint it once. I then picked out the details with an oil paint and Zippo lighter fluid wash. The pin washes and rain streaks were also done with this method. I like to use Zippo lighter fluid as the mixing agent as it always dries flat and is far easier to control than other methods.

> “The Lion Marc brass screw heads LM60006 are a wonderful set and are highly recommended (not that you can see them on my model with all the damn foliage!)”

FOLIAGE

The last step is the attachment of foliage. I have used an entire fret of Scale -Link SLF-39 photo-etch foliage on my model. Firstly the fret was prepared with a light coat of metal primer. The branches need to be thickened up (as branches are round not flat) by using Liquitex. This medium remains flexible and is a form of PVA glue. Paint this on the stems thickly and let dry over night. You may require 2 -3 coats to achieve a roundish branch. If you look closely at any tree you will notice that not all the leaves are the same colour. To that end, spray the entire fret green and pick out some leaves on the fret with a yellow/green mix and others with a brown/green mix. The next step was to paint the stems a brown or brownie-grey. I used Vallejo Flat Earth 983 here. When this is complete use an oil wash on the branches.

The foliage can now be cut from the fret. When this is done, first bend the leaves with your thumb and forefinger into a slightly rounded shape (the curl should go the length of the leaf). When this is complete bend the branches to your desired shape. Try and visualize what the foliage will look like before you apply it to your tank. It is most important to bend the branches to produce a '3D' effect. At this stage your model is probably slightly semi-gloss.

The best matt varnish I have ever used is Vallejo 520. I now use this directly from the bottle and it produces a dead flat finish and blends everything in.

CONCLUSION

The Tamiya model is generally a well engineered and accurate model. The Part Fender set P48-018 while looking great on the fret, is not really up to par in terms of accuracy and fit. The Hauler HLX48199 and HLX4820 Wirbelwind detail sets on the other hand are very well done and are a very worthwhile addition to the kit. The Lion Marc Brass Screw Heads LM60006 are a wonderful set and are highly recommended (not that you can see them on my model with all the damn foliage!) The World War II tracks were a little difficult to clean up but are without a doubt a joy to behold when complete. It is sad then, that these are no longer available. A suitable replacement can be found in the Friulmodel 1:48 scale range of aftermarket tracks. The Fine Molds MK-17, while a good replacement for the kit barrels lack the fine holes in the suppressor ends. To be honest, I was hoping for more from this set. The Voyager Panzer IV update VPE48012 includes the zimmerit set I have used in this build. At first, I didn't think it would look that convincing, as it looks a little too neat but after a second viewing and under a coat of primer and paint I'm warming to it. This is my first Wirbelwind and to be perfectly honest. I don't really like the look of the vehicle, sure I've started a few 1:35 examples in my time but never managed to finish them. (Which begs the question were all these half finished models that we all have?) This for me is the main strength of 1:48 armour... I finish what I start. ■

THANKS

I would like to thank the following people in sharing their knowledge with me, they are Ross Ferro for his views on German Tank colour, Bill Wiseman for his track help and advice and Scott Taylor for his reference photos. Last but by no means least, Brett Green for his photographic skills and time.

Modelspec

TAMIYA 1:48TH WIRBELWIND GERMAN FLAK PANZER IV WIRBELWIND KIT NO. 32544

Accessories

Hauler HL48199 Wirbelwind set
Hauler HLX48205 2cm Flak Magazines
World War II Productions 1:48 Panzer IV Tracks (no longer in production)
Scale-Link "SLF-39" 1:72 Foliage
Lion Marc Model Designs LMM60006"Screw Heads
Fine Molds 2cm Barrel set Mk-17
Voyager Model Panzer IV set VPE48012
PART Panzer IV Fenders P48-018
Archer Surface details N0.6

Paints used

Tamiya XF-2 Flat White, Tamiya XF-57 Bluff, Tamiya XF-69 NATO Black, Tamiya XF-18 Medium Blue, Tamiya XF-1 Black, Tamiya XF-52 Flat Earth, Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow, Tamiya XF-9 Hull Red, Tamiya XF-58 Olive Green, Tamiya XF-26 Deep Green.
Humbrol Metal Coat "27004" Gun metal, Humbrol Grey "Met 53", Humbrol Matt White 34, Humbrol Wood Brown 62.
Vallejo Silver 848, Vallejo Matt Varnish 520, Vallejo Golden Olive 857, Vallejo Olive Green 967

Materials

Squadron Green Putty
Humbrol Liquid Poly
Mitsubishi UM-120NM" SILVER pen
Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set
Small Shop Brass Assist Roller set
Small Shop Hold and Fold

References

Allied and Axis Issue 1
Scott Taylor reference Photos
Various internet based References

✓ Ease of assembly.
✗ Inaccurate gun mounting.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●○○○

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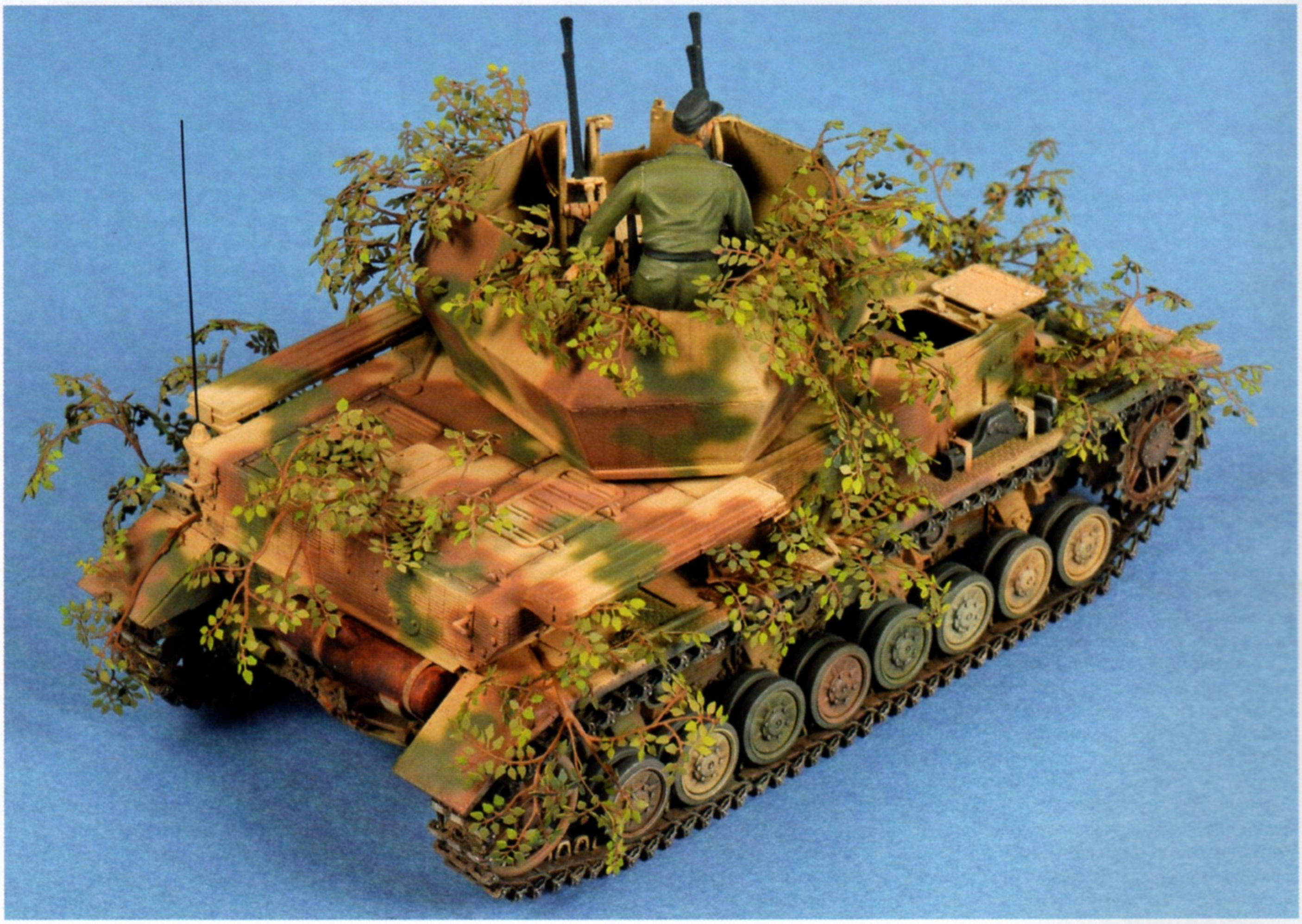
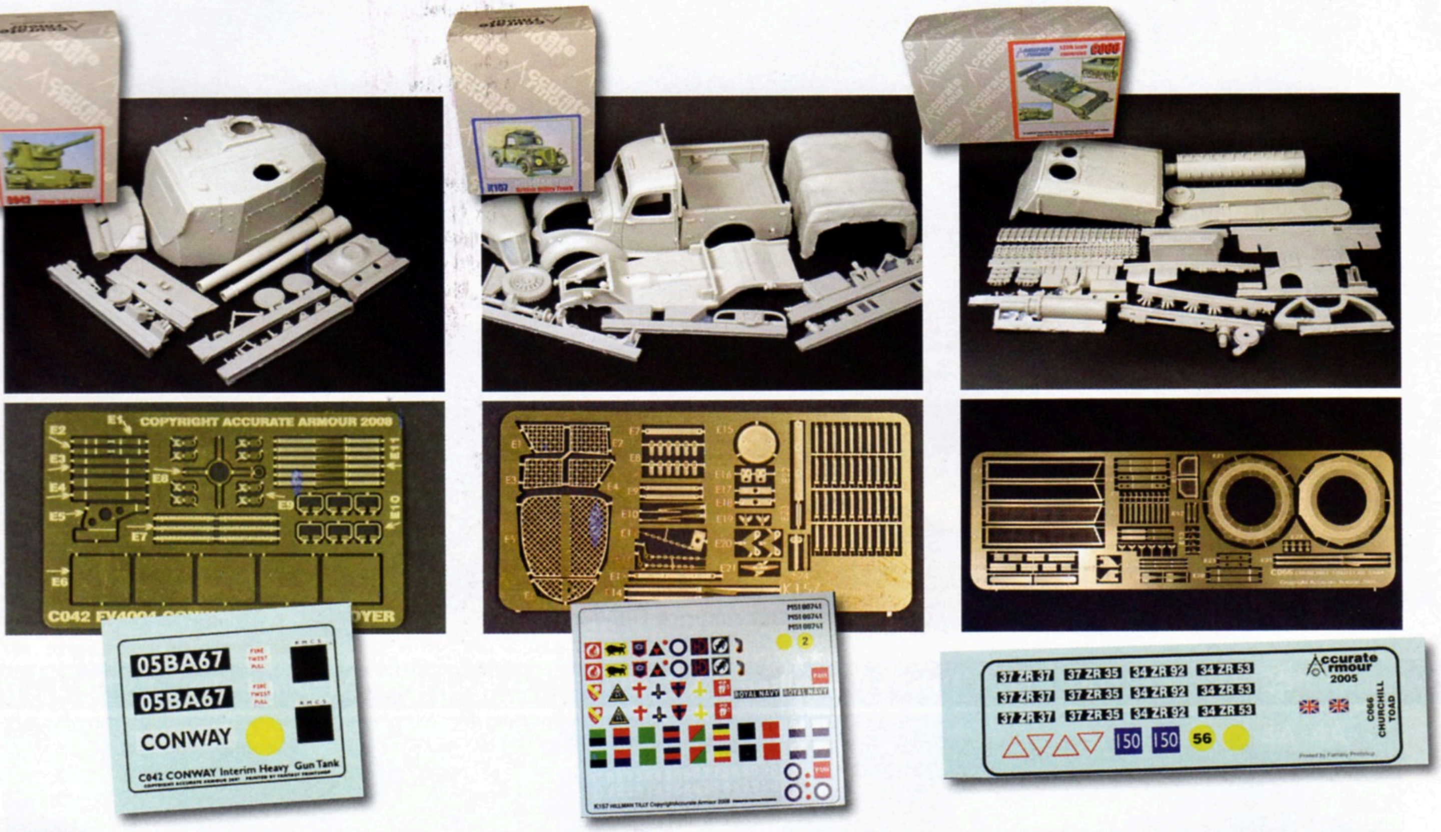


1:35 CONWAY 120MM TANK DESTROYER (CO42)
1:35 HILLMAN TILLEY (K157)
1:35 CHURCHILL 7 'TOAD' FLAIL (CO66)

BEST OF BRITISH

These three new kits from Accurate Armour are a diverse bunch, from a quick conversion, to a complex conversion to a complete kit.



The simple conversion is the Conway Tank Destroyer. It is no secret that when the JS-3 rumbled purposefully along the streets in the 1945 victory parade that the allies were taken aback and very worried. The Conway was a British idea to try and counter the JS-3's threat. Beset with problems including a limited gun elevation, a gun placed high to avoid the recoil damaging the turret ring and a small ammunition storage capacity, the Conway had a limited shelf life and in the end only one was built.

Designed for the AFV Club Centurion, this set requires only the replacing of the rear plate, adding some small fittings and the swapping of the Centurion turret with the new 120mm armed Conway turret. The turret is nicely hollow cast and needs only its external fittings and large 2 piece resin gun barrel to complete. With only a small etched sheet this is a simple conversion requiring no measured cutting of the base kit, just part replacement. All this means that this kit would be a good place to start for someone who has never worked with a resin aftermarket kit before.

The complex conversion is the Toad and this is definitely not for someone wishing to build their first resin kit. The Churchill Toad was a post war attempt to carry on the success of the crab flails tanks from World War II. Although in service the Toad didn't last long over forty of them were eventually built.

Based around the old Tamiya Churchill Mk7 plastic kit this conversion removes the turret and replaces it with a large new superstructure and the fittings that build the flail system and all its workings. The construction is quite complex and could prove to be a challenge for a novice modeller.

Although this is a complicated conversion the annotated colour photograph and text instructions should guide you through it without major problems. In places where you might have a problem aligning parts, Accurate Armour provide jigs to make sure you get the parts in the correct position. The instructions tell you when to paint things before assembly as the complex nature of the kit means that areas may be difficult to get to later on. The centre piece of the vehicle is of course the flails and these are provided as just a length of unrealistic looking chain but are cast in resin looking like the real flat sided shackles seen on the vehicle. Some of the flails are already moulded in a curve so as to help you along with the positioning process. As the instructions say the flails will 'require time and patience' and some methods for their realistic positioning such as applying gentle heat from a pyrogravure are described and it is a case of choosing which one works for you.

Also included in the kit is a good size etch sheet, brass cable and a set of decals allowing you to make four different vehicles.

This kit should build, with care, into a great looking vehicle that will turn heads on any model competition table.

The complete kit is the Hillman Tilly Light Utility Truck. This truck is a small pick up or a large saloon car sized vehicle which served on all fronts throughout the war meaning that the diorama and painting schemes are limited only by your imagination. This great looking little vehicle caught my attention, as the first car I can remember my parents owning, was also a Hillman, an 'Imp'. This was a car so small I am sure a couple of them could have easily fitted into the boot of a Mini.

The kit has a floor pan onto which the suspension and drive shaft is fitted. A complete little engine is included which will be seen through the lovely etch front and side grilles, however to display it properly some surgery of the bonnet will be required. A nicely rendered canvas cover for the rear area is provided and this could also be left off to show the fully detailed small rear cargo area.

A sizeable decal sheet containing fifteen different units and ten different Arms of Service is included meaning that you have a great choice of where and when to display your Tilly.

This is my pick of the bunch as it is a small but great looking model, the only problem I have with it is that the doors are moulded shut and not separate items meaning that the great little interior will be largely hidden.

These three well designed and well moulded new sets from Accurate Armour should be diverse enough to tempt modellers of all abilities. Very highly recommended. ■

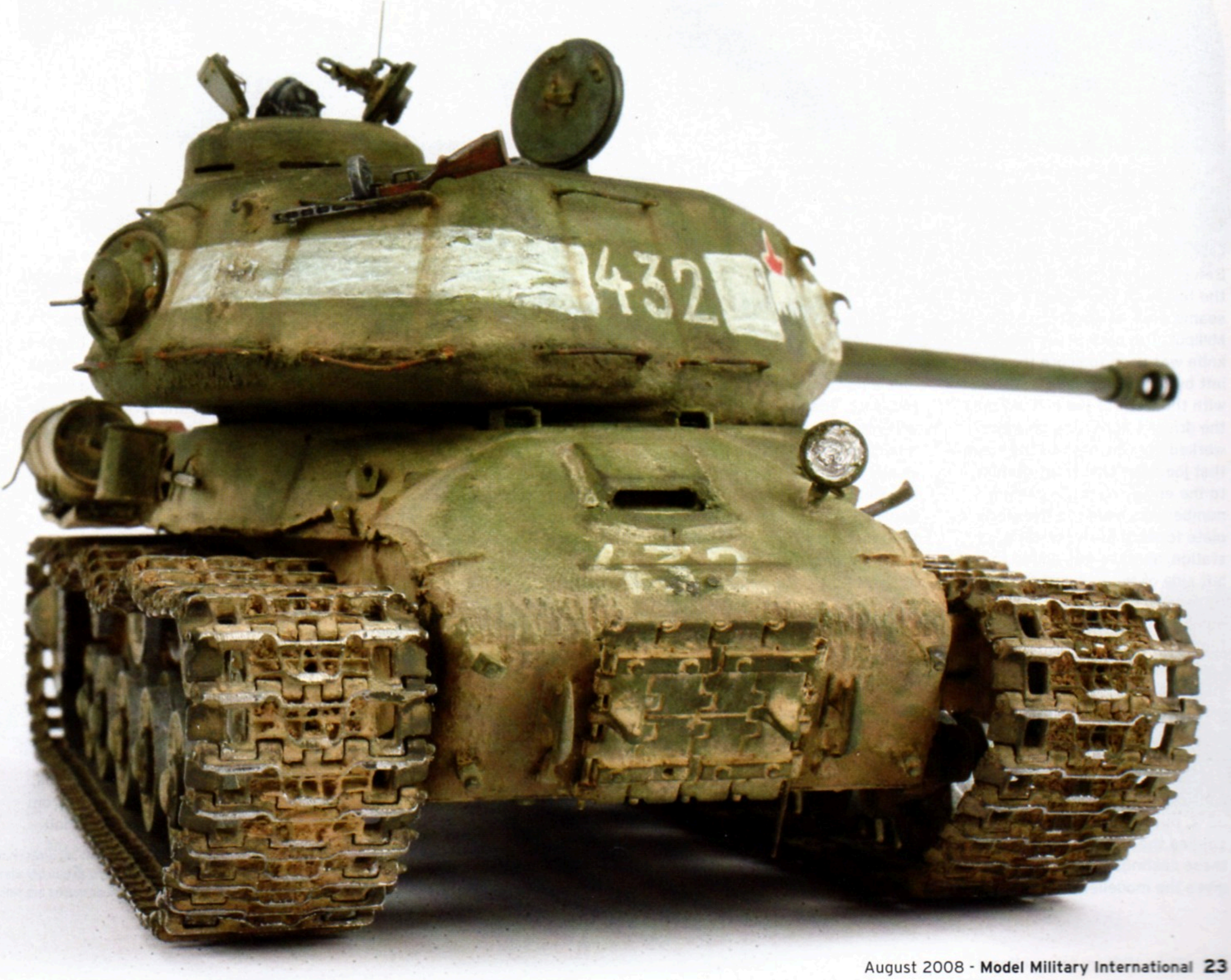
Available from
www.accurate-armour.com

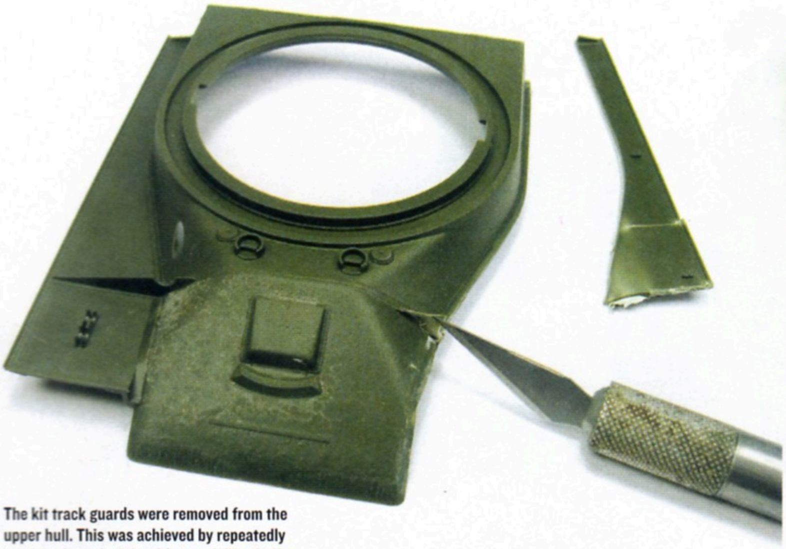
STALIN'S GIANT

Following our preview, **Kev Smith** brings Tamiya's all new JS-2 to life.

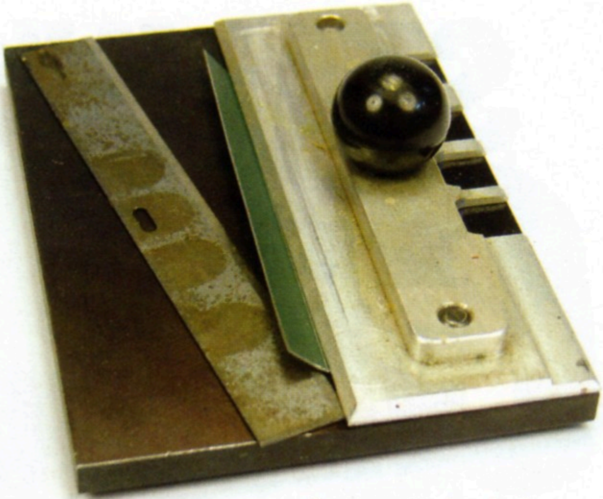
Back in the February issue (22) Andrew Willis gave us his initial impression of Tamiya's all new JS-2 Russian Heavy Tank, well now I have one in my hands, which gives me the opportunity to build it and have some serious fun by going to town with the battle damage and weathering.

Construction isn't complicated and goes together as well as you would expect from Tamiya, with nice sharp detail and an excellent fit of parts. There isn't a lot else I can say on the build, I find a good kit is harder to write about than a bad one! The details are very good but there are little things that always need attention these will be covered in this article. From historical photos of the time, Russian armour was prone to suffering from badly damaged track guards, this I love as it adds interest to a model. I began by cutting the existing kit track guards, scoring a line with a modelling knife along the line of the kit part; the front supports were partially removed to suggest that they had been cut off using an acetylene torch. The original plan was to replace all of the track guards with scratch built items but I grew to like the look of the model with its missing front sections. The new rear sections of track guard were fashioned from thin metal sheet, using the original kit parts as templates. An Etch Mate was used to fold the up-turned outer edge of the new parts before attaching to the kit with super glue, finally aluminium self-adhesive tape was used to reinforce the underside of the joint. ▶

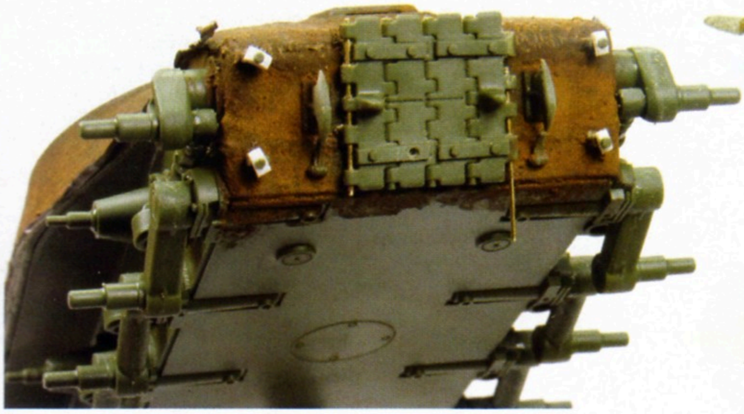




The kit track guards were removed from the upper hull. This was achieved by repeatedly scoring along the join with a modelling knife.



The replacement track guard sections were fashioned from thin metal sheet. The distinctive up-turned outer edges were created with the aid of an etched brass folding-tool.



The spare track links mounted on the bow plate received some minor detailing in the form of brass wire connector pins. Note the rebuilt track retaining brackets made from plastic card. The bolt heads were carved from the unused track links.

The external fuel tanks received some extra detailing. The first job was to remove the moulded on retaining straps and add some dents using a mini drill fitted with a grinding bit.

CAST TEXTURE AND WELDS

Before the hull could be textured the torch-cut marks and weld seams were all enhanced using Milliput. The back of my hobby knife was used to score the scars left by the gas torches. I started with the front of the hull around the driver's periscope area and worked my way back to the seam that joins the cast front section to the engine decks. A casting number was added to the glacis plate forward of the driver's station, another was added to the left side of the hull, just below the turret ring. I Normally slice the numbers from the part number tabs on the kit's sprues to use as casting numbers, but on a recent visit to a model railway shop I picked up a set of Slater's styrene numbers and letters set, so I thought I'd give these a try!

Tamiya have done a good job of capturing the cast texture of the JS-2, but from photographs I have studied the quality and texture of these castings vary greatly. This gives the modeller plenty of scope to add your own, so I decided to spend some time adding a rougher texture to the model. I made use of Metal-Coat, this is literally metal in a jar, just add water and paint on. This was bought from an art shop and is normally used to distress furniture. The surface of the model was roughed up with a cordless mini-drill fitted with a dental burr to key the surface prior to applying the Metal-Coat. A thin coat was applied with an old brush and left to dry. A glass-fibre pen was then used to smooth out any impurities left on the surface before a second coat was applied, this process was repeated a couple of times until I was happy with the finish.

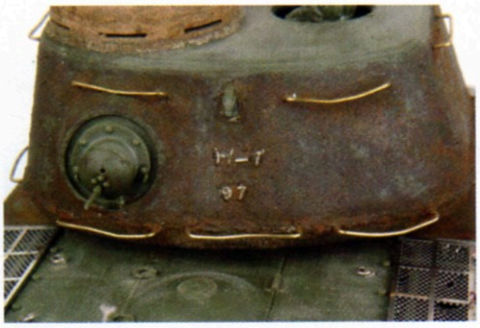
ALL THOSE LITTLE THINGS

Adding to the details already mentioned to the front of the hull, the two side lights (at least that what I think they are) were left off and a weld scar was made from Milliput as if they had been ripped off after the track guards had been damaged. I used thin electrical wire for the surviving conduit.

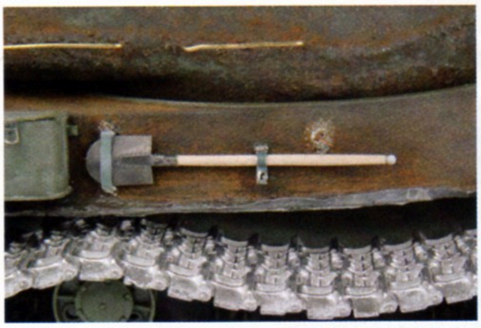
The mounting for the partner saw was scratch built from the same material that was used for the track guards. The saw blade itself was taken from an old etched brass set.

All that remained to do at this stage were the shovel and the small stowage bin mounted forward of the external fuel tanks. I decided to tackle the shovel first, the brackets were again scratch built from thin metal sheet with the shovel blade taken from the same old etched brass set as the saw blade. The handle of the shovel was fashioned from a cocktail stick which was inserted into my hand drill and turned down with the aid of a nail file. The small bin is the kit item and was enhanced with a new locking clasp. The fuel tanks were next; they come with moulded on straps, I removed these from the tanks and damage was inflicted again using my mini drill fitted with a dental burr. The new straps were cut from plastic card. The locking screws were cut from thin wire and inserted into pre-drilled holes. The weld seams were also removed at this stage and replaced with Archer's excellent three-dimensional weld seam decals.

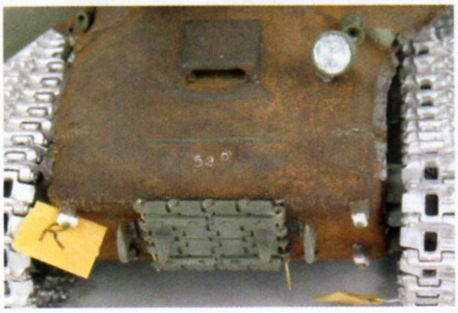
The rear plate was next, I began with the eyelets for the tow cables; these are moulded solid and were removed from the kit with the new ones being made from thin metal sheet, the hooks that keep the tow cables in place were added after being scratch built from thin metal wire. The handle mounted on the rear plate was also replaced. Lifting rings were added to one or two of the fittings on the engine decks. Soft copper wire from Karaya was used instead of the kits' nylon thread for the tow cable. A little interest was added to the gun cradle by opening the lock and adding a wing nut and missing weld seams. Some of the spare track links were left off the front and rear mounts on the lower hull, new retainers were fashioned from plastic card with the original bolt heads which I carefully sliced off from the original kit parts. ▶



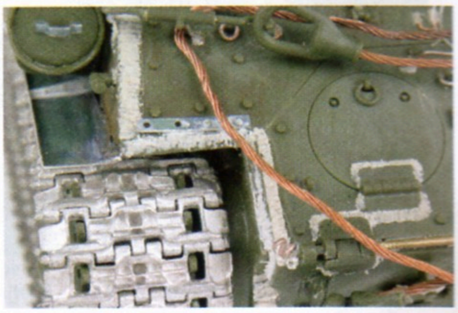
The author replaced all of the kit's plastic grab handles with ones fashioned from brass wire.



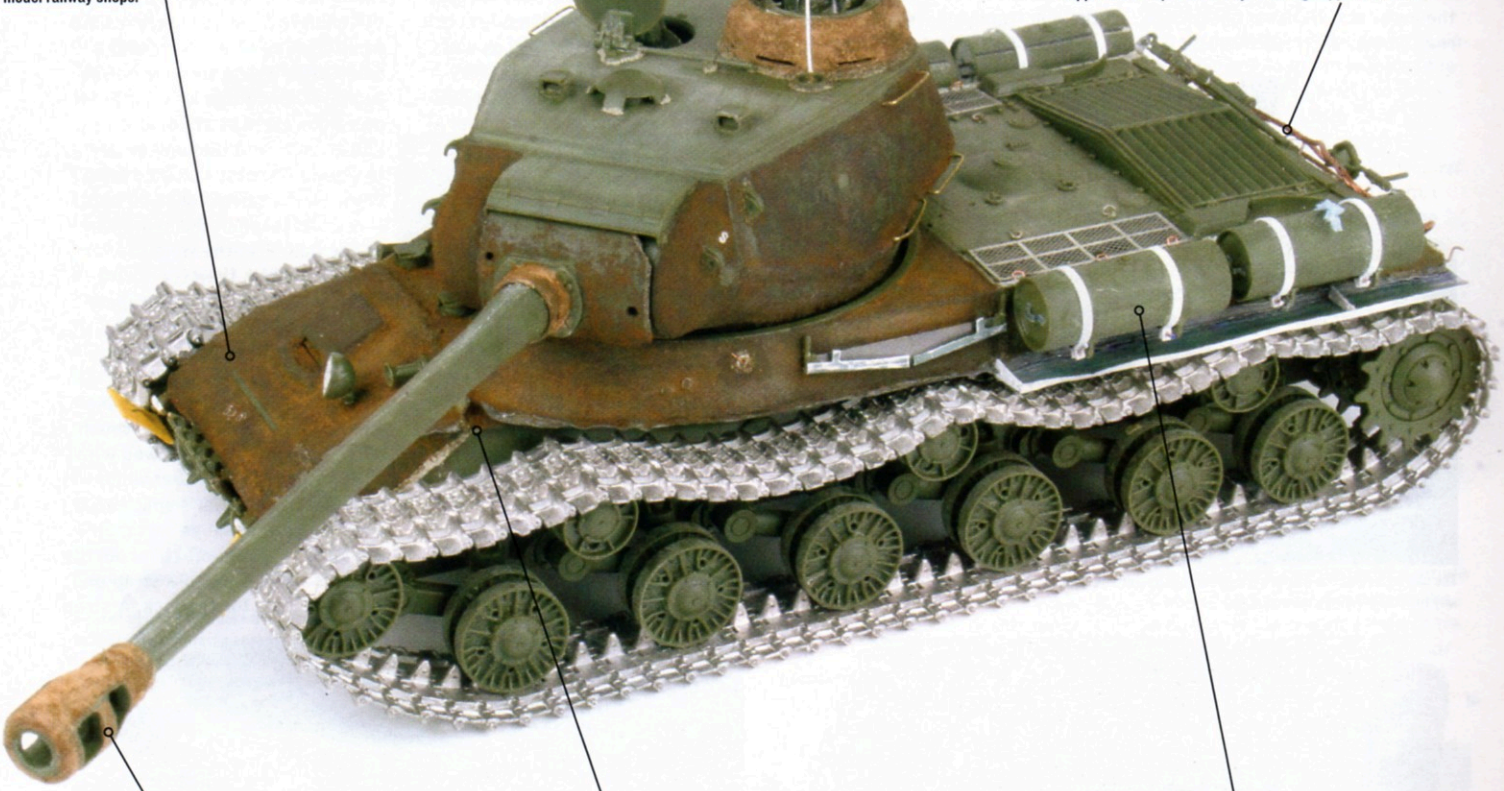
A new shovel was made by turning down a cocktail stick on a mini-drill with the aid of a nail file.

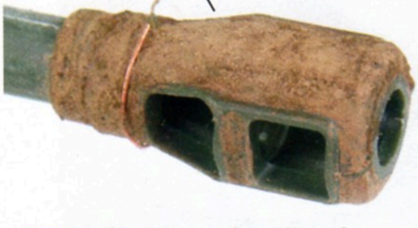


Just visible in this shot, are the Slaters styrene numbers and letters set. Slater's products should be available in all good model kit and model railway shops.

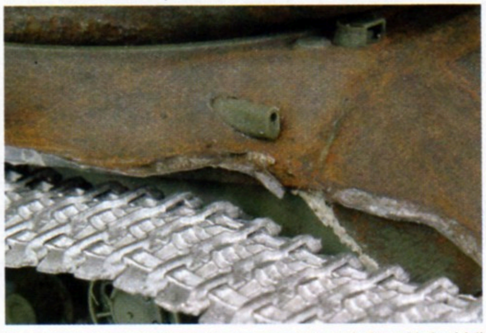


The heavy weld seams which are so prominent on WWII Soviet armoured vehicles has been reproduced with Milliput. Karaya soft copper cable replaced the nylon string supplied in the kit.

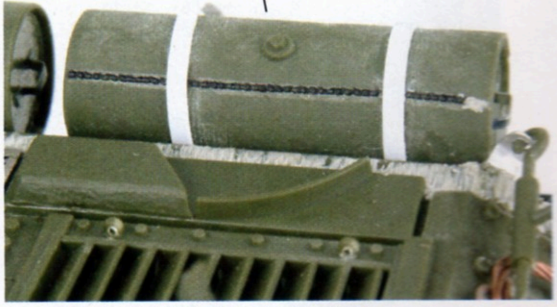




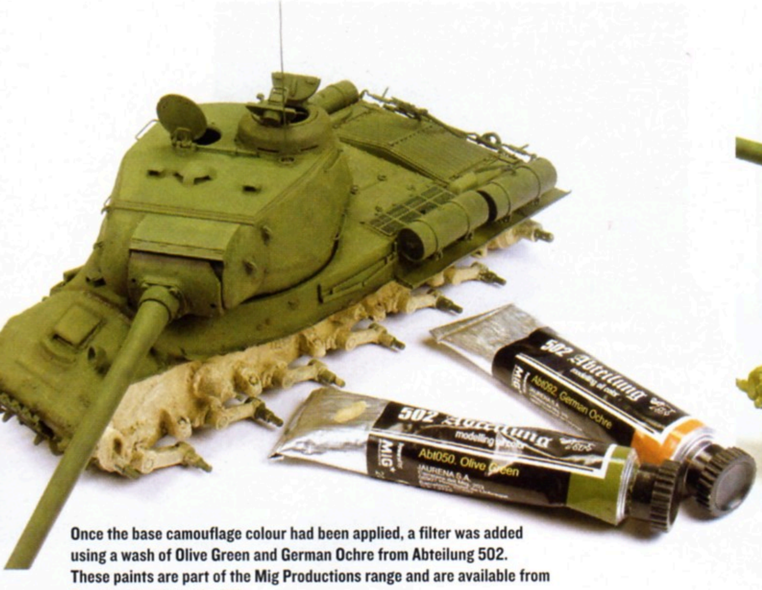
To recreate the cast texture on the massive muzzle brake the author stippled on a mix of Humbrol enamel paint and talcum powder.



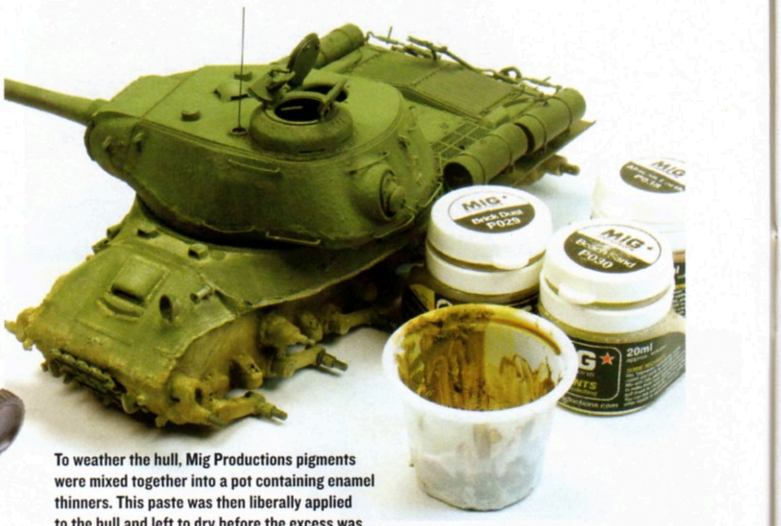
The damaged track guard attachment strips were made from thin lead foil. The Metal-Coat used to texture the hull can be seen to good effect here.



The re-worked external fuel tanks received new retaining straps from plastic card. The weld seams are from the Archer Surface Detail Weld Bead set. Archer products are stocked by www.historexagents.com in the UK.



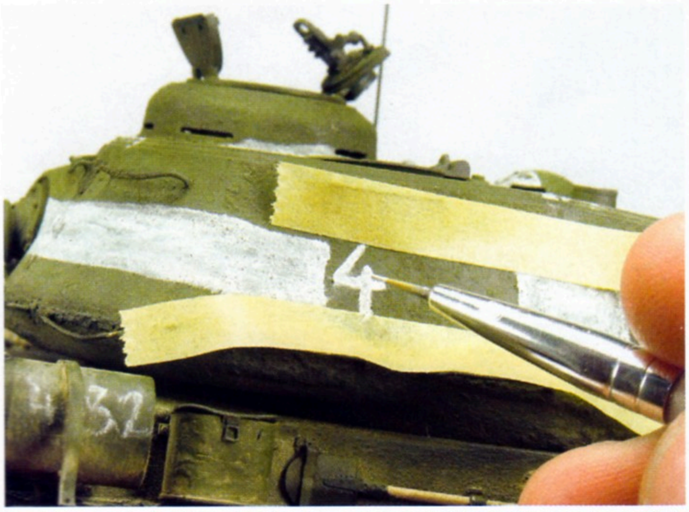
Once the base camouflage colour had been applied, a filter was added using a wash of Olive Green and German Ochre from Abteilung 502. These paints are part of the Mig Productions range and are available from Creative Models in the UK.



To weather the hull, Mig Productions pigments were mixed together into a pot containing enamel thinners. This paste was then liberally applied to the hull and left to dry before the excess was removed using a stiff brush.

RUNNING GEAR

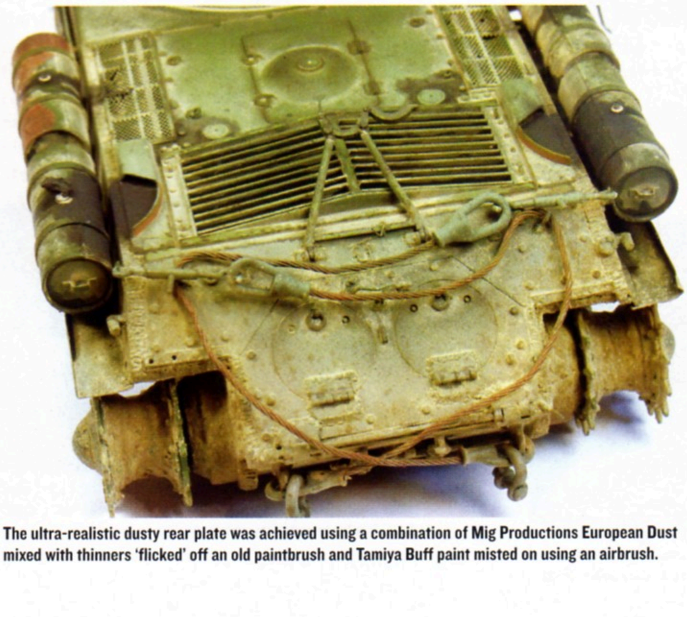
With the bulk of the detailing done it was time to start the construction in the conventional way and this as always starts with the lower hull /running gear. The road wheels and return rollers, which are well moulded with good defined detail, were made up and mounted onto cocktail sticks for painting. The swing arms as you would expect are mounted into the hull, Tamiya have added a jig so there can be no errors with the alignment. Then it was time to marry the upper hull to the lower, but not before drilling out the correct holes for the light and horn on the frontal armour, depending on what vehicle you're modelling. The fit of the two parts is as you would expect from Tamiya, very good indeed. From the start I had decided on using the Friulmodel individual track links, being metal these would capture that look of Russian armour. I mentioned earlier that Tamiya gives the choice of two types of track in the kit, firstly a set of the vinyl tracks, a good idea for the less experienced modeller and a set of 'link and length' tracks moulded in injection styrene. Tamiya include another jig onto which the upper run of the track is built ensuring they will match the location of the rollers on the hull and will replicate the track sag once fitted. These links do suffer from ejector pin marks on the face of each of the links so time consuming filling and sanding will be called for.



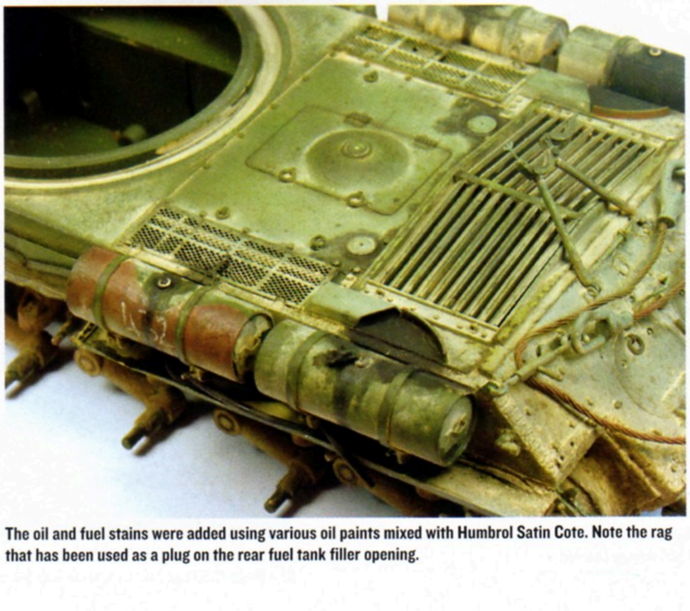
The call signs and the 'Berlin' recognition bands were all hand-painted to simulate the less than careful way the real markings were applied.

TURRET

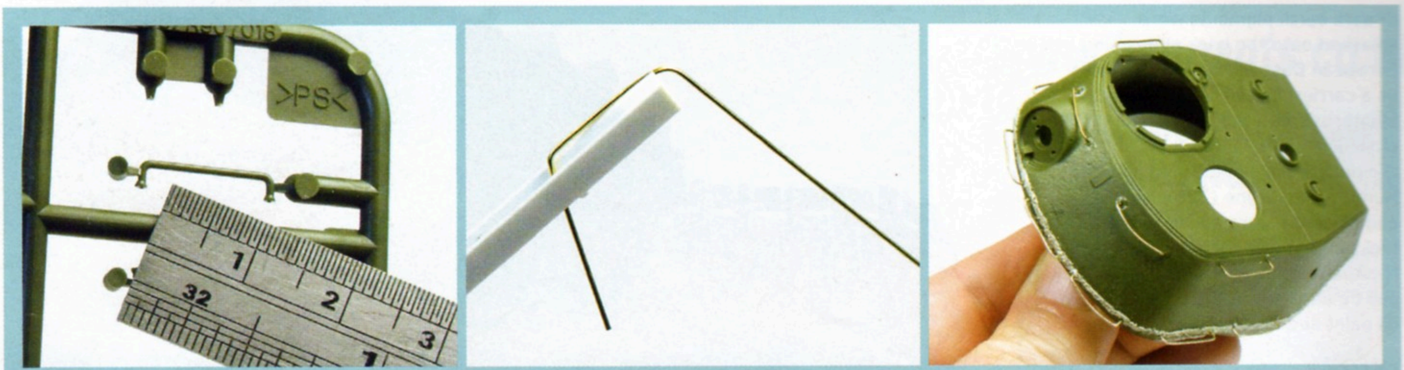
The main armament of the JS-2 was the D-25 gun, and comes moulded in two halves including the muzzle brake, so care must be taken to keep the barrel round when dealing with the resulting seam after gluing the two halves together. Once this was done the muzzle brake was stippled with a mix of paint and talcum powder to create the cast textured look. Work on the turret followed and was undertaken in the same way as the hull, first the weld seams were reworked, then the turret sides were textured. The cupola was treated a little differently; this prominent structure was treated with the same talcum powder mix as the muzzle brake and stippled on with an old brush before adding, then followed with a thin coat of Metal-Coat when dry. The commander's split hatch could do with some detailing on the inside if you want to model the hatches open. I added a strap and a release cord for the lock. A strap



The ultra-realistic dusty rear plate was achieved using a combination of Mig Productions European Dust mixed with thinners 'flicked' off an old paintbrush and Tamiya Buff paint misted on using an airbrush.



The oil and fuel stains were added using various oil paints mixed with Humbrol Satin Cote. Note the rag that has been used as a plug on the rear fuel tank filler opening.



TECH TIP!

I chose to replace the eleven grab handles mounted to the turret sides with ones made from brass rod, to measure and make these individually would be very time consuming, so to make the new handles I started by drilling out the fixing holes in the turret wall. It's a good idea to spend a little time to make a jig as this will save you time in the end. The measurements were taken from a handle on the sprue, then transferred to a strip of plastic, a hole was then drilled at the corresponding length from the end of the plastic strip; this was then my jig. After an initial right-angled bend, the brass rod was then inserted into the hole, and then bent at the end of the plastic jig forming a neat handle. The real handles were welded to the turret so I left a small overflow of super glue around the base of the handles to help give the impression of welds.

was also added to inside of the loaders hatch.

PAINTING

I planned from the start to model my Stalin from the 7th Guards Tank Brigade, mainly because of the distinctive Battle for Berlin markings with the polar bear insignia; this would help break up the single colour appearance. I started with an undercoat of Tamiya Flat Black (XF-1), normally I would use grey car primer but I didn't want to risk losing any of the texturing with this heavier undercoat, and being black it would lend itself to act as a pre-shading coat. Next was the main colour, I started with Tamiya NATO Green (XF-67) then added Tamiya Yellow Green (XF-4) in irregular patterns gradually increasing the amount of (XF-4). The aim is to get some depth with the shades of green taking advantage of the undercoat to accentuate the natural shadowed areas. Very light coats were applied through an airbrush gradually building up the layers. For the lower hull, I mixed up a paste of Humbrol Mid Stone 225 and talcum powder to create some dried mud along the hull sides, (the road wheels were weathered separately to the model). Once the model was dry, a colour wash/filter of Olive Green and German Ochre from the 502 Abteilung range was mixed, and applied with a wide soft brush to the upper hull and turret.

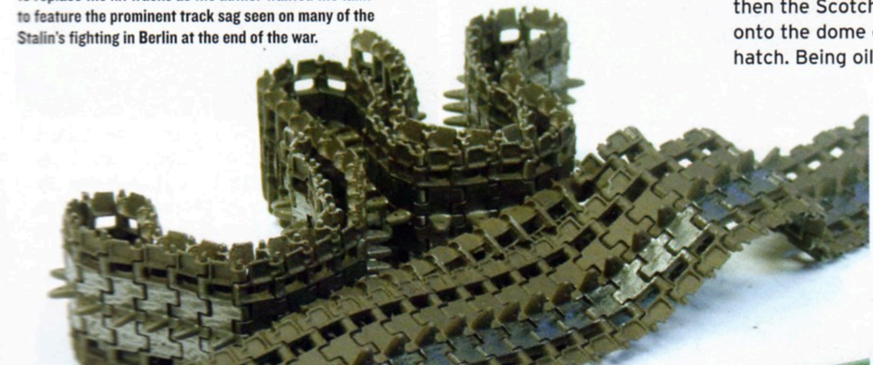
> **"Tamiya gives the choice of two types of track in the kit, firstly a set of the vinyl tracks, a good idea for the less experienced modeller and a set of link and length tracks moulded in injection styrene..."**

CHIPPING

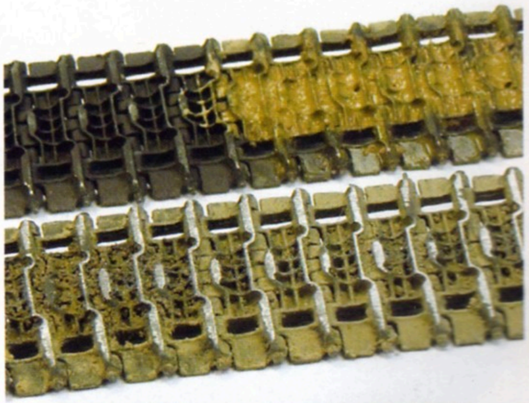
I used Vandyke Brown and Paynes Grey oils, I find that varying the amount of each individual colour, and the amount of thinner can give a convincing build up of scratches. The underside of the deeper scratches and chips were then highlighted with Yellow Green oil paint, this is a vibrant colour so only a small amount is needed. Further scuffs and scratches were added with Scotch Brite, this is a useful and easy technique and has a multitude of uses, a small corner of the pad was torn off and dipped into the mix, the excess was then removed with tissue paper, then the Scotch Brite was dabbed onto the dome on the engine deck hatch. Being oil paints with a long drying time any mistake can easily be rectified or removed with a damp brush.

WEATHERING THE HULL

Mig pigments were the main media that was employed to weather the model, an equal quantity of Brick Dust (P029), Beach Sand (P0 30), and African Earth (P038) were mixed in a pot with thinner to make a thin paste. The mix was then brushed all over the front half of the hull. Once the spirit had dried, a solid coat of pigment remained. A good quality brush was used to dust off the excess pigment leaving a convincing build up of dust in the natural recesses. It also shows off the texturing, and welds seams, making all that work worth it. The rear half of the hull was weathered slightly differently. I started by airbrushing earth tones, onto the rear plate blending gradually into the lower hull, starting with Tamiya Flat Brown (XF-10) directly to the area above the tracks where there would be a build up of fresh mud/dirt and ending up with a misting of Tamiya Buff (XF-57). Splatters ▶



A set of white metal tracks from Friulmodel were used to replace the kit tracks as the author wanted the tank to feature the prominent track sag seen on many of the Stalin's fighting in Berlin at the end of the war.



The tracks were muddied up using more pigments mixed into a paste. Once dry the parts of the track in contact with the ground were rubbed with a sanding pad to reveal the white metal. A graphite pencil was used to create the polished portions of the track in contact with the road wheels.

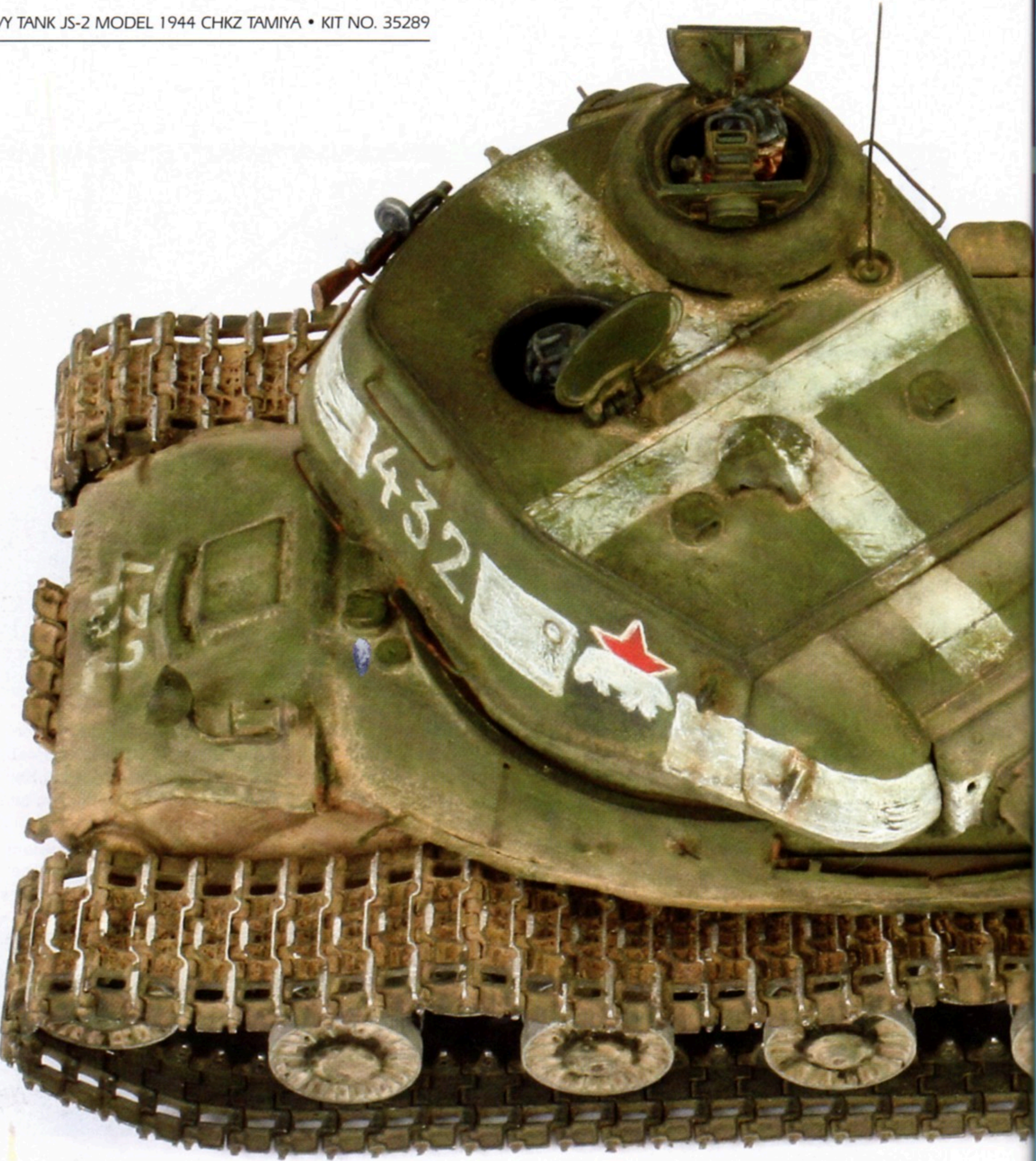
◀ of dark earth pigments were splashed onto the back plate using European Dust (P028) and thinner as a carrier, flicked off of an old paintbrush with the back of my modelling knife. To finish off, the top decks received local washes of Humbrol Mid Stone (225). Grease and oil stains were added to the fuel tanks and to the rear decks these are always a nice touch and can be easily made from thinned oil paint and Humbrol Satin Cote.

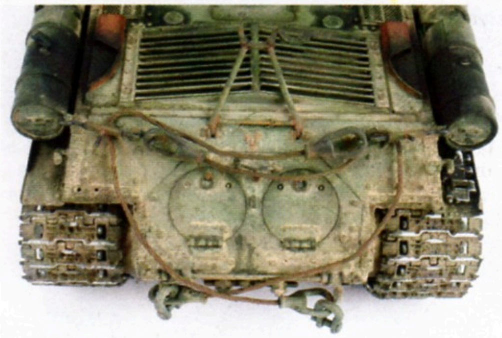
TURRET

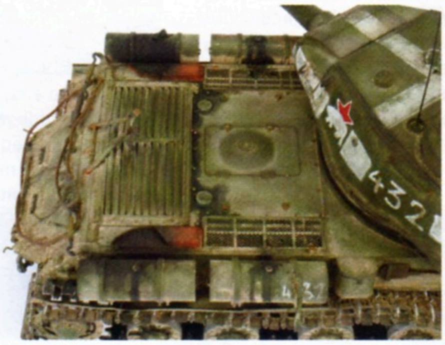
I started with the distinctive Berlin markings, I opted to hand paint these from the start, as all reference photos show that the crews probably hand painted the markings after hitting their Vodka ration. The only decal I employed was the star, this was hand painted over to match the remainder of the markings. The lower sides of the turret received the same wash of pigments as the hull. The turret roof was left relatively dust free to add a little contrast. The Scotch Brite was employed once again to replicate wear to the turret roof around the hatches and grab handles.

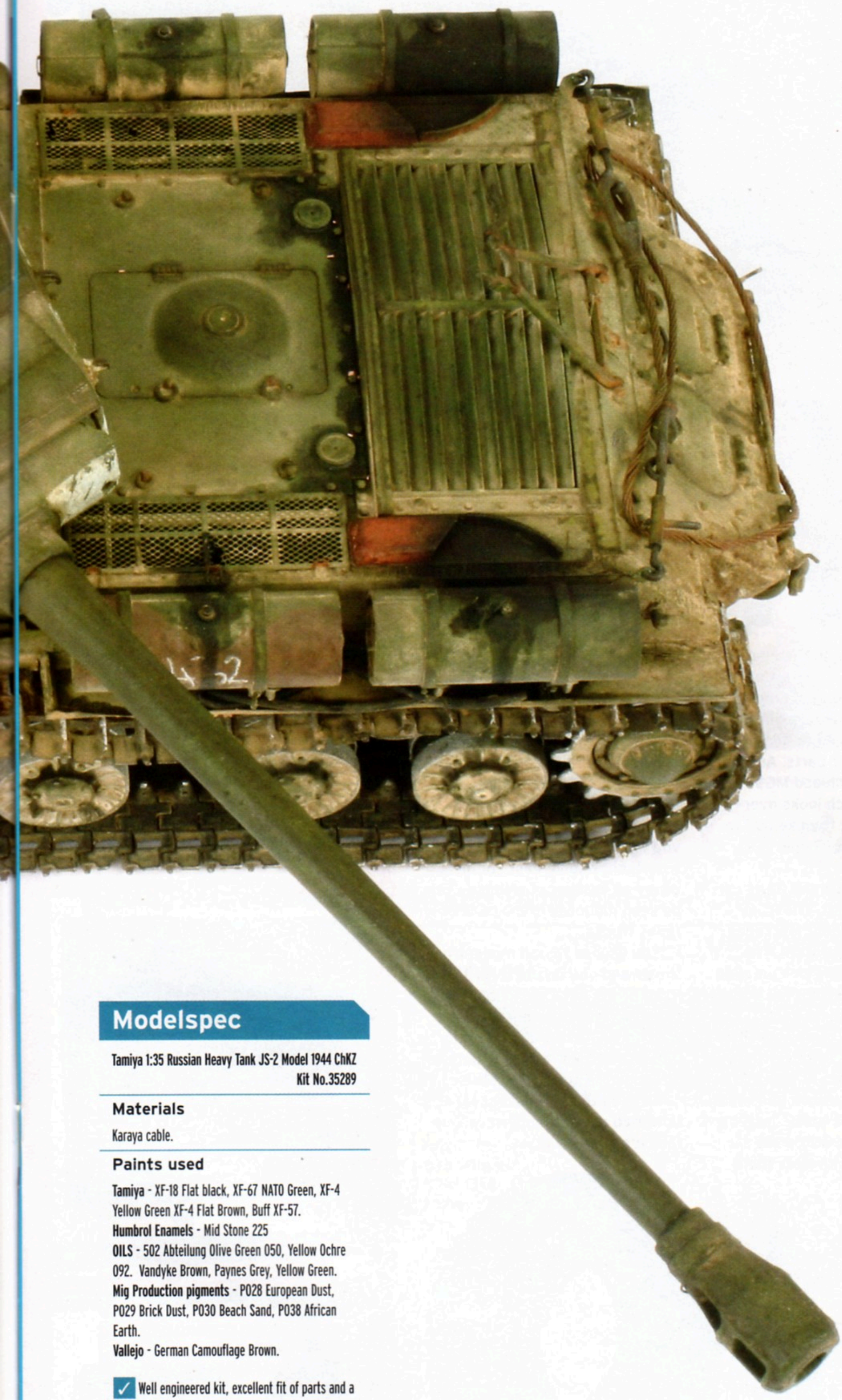
CONCLUSION

Overall, the Tamiya JS-2 is a lovely kit to build, typical of Tamiya with easy to follow instructions and an excellent fit of parts. This gives the modeller lots of scope to put their stamp on it. Tamiya have produced a superb model of an important piece of Allied Armour. ■









Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 Russian Heavy Tank JS-2 Model 1944 ChKZ
Kit No.35289

Materials

Karaya cable.

Paints used

Tamiya - XF-18 Flat black, XF-67 NATO Green, XF-4 Yellow Green XF-4 Flat Brown, Buff XF-57.
Humbrol Enamels - Mid Stone 225
OILS - 502 Abteilung Olive Green 050, Yellow Ochre 092. Vandyke Brown, Paynes Grey, Yellow Green.
Mig Production pigments - P028 European Dust, P029 Brick Dust, P030 Beach Sand, P038 African Earth.
Vallejo - German Camouflage Brown.

✓ Well engineered kit, excellent fit of parts and a pleasure to build.

✗ Figures aren't up to today's standards, moulded fuel tank brackets.

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Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

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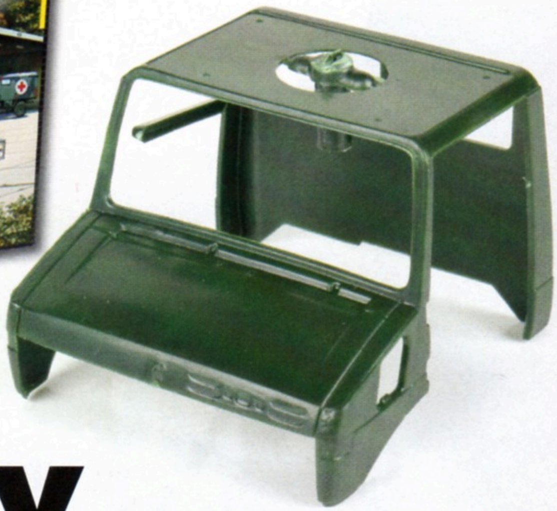


PRETTY MOG-NIFICENT!

Karl Hoy checks out Revell's UNIMOG.

Revell are one of those companies that are simply synonymous with modellers. Pretty much everybody in the hobby will have built one of their kits at some point. In recent times they have been very good at releasing German military vehicles in 1:72 and 1:35, the latest being this UNIMOG.

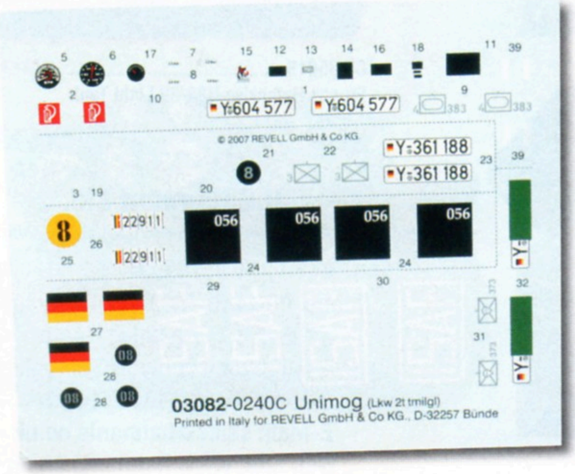
The kit is spread across four green sprues and a green cab (which, for me was warped but looks fixable), five sturdy rubber tyres, a large-ish glazing sprue and a small set of decals. These are for four vehicles - two NATO tri-Colour Bundeswehr vehicles in Germany, an olive drab and tri-colour canvas ISAF vehicle in Kabul and finally a complete olive drab version of the Koniglic Belgische Armeé.

The moulding of the parts is, to my eye, a little on the heavy side and there is more flash than I have come to expect in new 1:35 kits, as well as several ejector pin marks that will need to be filled on some of the larger parts. Another problem is the included MG3 Machine-gun which looks over-scale and slightly toy-like due to the poor moulding. Revell really should do better.

However, despite the flaws the kit looks decent. The front grille has a prominent Mercedes symbol which looks great. The interior is also really well detailed with a very nice dashboard and steering wheel with knobbly hand grips on the rear! As well as this, the canvas cargo area is moulded very nicely with an authentic fabric pattern and well detailed tie-downs which should look very realistic with some careful painting. However there is no provision for displaying the UNIMOG without the canvas cover in place, due to the way the parts have been moulded, the only option would be to scratch build a new set of cargo bed side-panels and tail gate. I think this is a shame as it does limit the potential for this kit, especially if you want to model a vehicle from the recent middle east conflicts where all manner of weapons can be seen mounted in the back of these trucks.

You expect a good model from Revell and you do get it for the most part. I have no doubt that once this vehicle is built and weathered (the ISAF version for me) it will look great. Instructions, as usual, are clear and concise.

All in all this is a decent kit at a fair price and for modern vehicle fans it's a must. ■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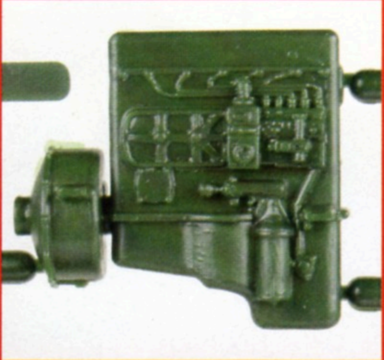
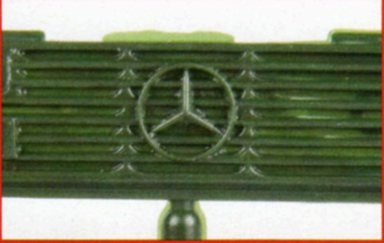
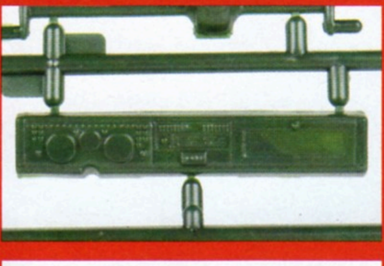
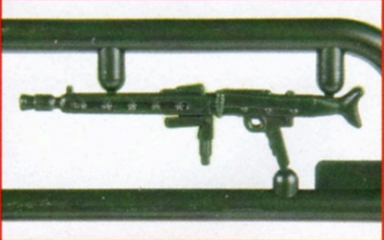
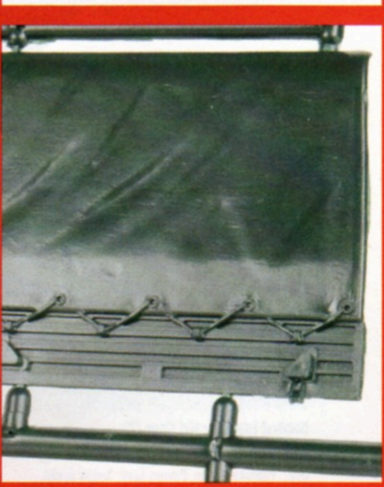
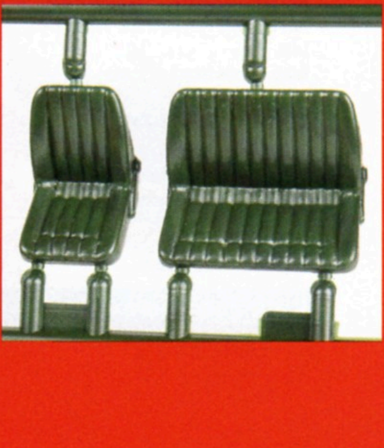












GEN
MEE

My initial plan with this Tamiya M4A1 was to build something quick and simple to help get the old modelling juices flowing again, as it has seemed like an eternity since I last built anything. It was going to be built from the box, so I could spend more time playing with different painting techniques, which is the part of this hobby, I enjoy the most.

Well as with all the best laid plans, it didn't quite work out that way, first of all I received the excellent Hauler etched brass set and the turned aluminium barrel from Armour Workshop for review. Instantly I had the urge to use these, which I knew would certainly increase the construction time, but what the heck...!

HULL

Although I'm not a great lover of the white metal lower hulls Tamiya insist on including with their 1:48 scale kits, I have to admit that once construction was complete it wasn't noticeable at all and did add a nice weighty feel to the model. I also have to admit that because of the clever use of self-taper screws to secure the upper and lower hull halves together it made life so much easier when it came to assembling, painting and installing the tracks. As can be seen from the accompanying photo, I assembled the track into one section, but left it open at the rear, so that once painting had been completed I could simply slip the drive sprocket back onto the spindle and the tracks over the suspension units and fix the open ends together with a drop of super glue (Cyanoacrylate, CA).

In all the time I have been modelling I don't think I have ever used every part in any etched brass set I have ever used and the Hauler set for this M4 was no different. This is in no way a waste as far as I'm concerned, as the parts I have used are worth the extra investment as they really add that extra finesse over the over-scale kit parts they replace, and secondly the unused parts never go to waste and will most certainly be used for a future project.

The biggest single improvement to any Sherman kit is the replacement of the over-scale plastic headlight and taillight guard. However before I could attach the Hauler parts I needed to fill the large locating slots in the hull, this was done using Milliput, the excess filler was then removed by wetting my finger and rubbing over each slot, this also helped smooth and blend the putty, saving the need for any further sanding once it has cured. The Hauler guards as per the rest of the etched parts were fixed in place using Bob Smith Industries' CA glue.

With all of the extra detailing in place, which incidentally didn't take as long as I expected, I then set about adding some stowage to the engine deck. Thankfully Tamiya do include some stowage items in the kit including back packs, bed rolls and jerry cans. To which I added a wooden box leftover from the SU-122 I built back in issue No. 1 along with a very nicely detailed tarpaulin from a Goffy stowage set (Goffy Products used to be stocked by PDI Model Supplies, but I believe no longer carry this range). To finish off I added a spare road wheel and a couple of lead foil 'tarps' and all were tied down with thin strips of Tamiya masking tape secured with small drops of CA glue.

TURRET

The turret was assembled as per the instructions with the exception of replacing the kit's styrene barrel with the turned aluminium barrel from Armour Workshop. The only other 'tweaks', involved blending the edges of the shell ejection port to the turret sides with some model filler thinned with Liquid Poly glue and filling the two ejector pin marks on the commander's hatches halves before adding some of the detailing parts from the Hauler set.

The 'fifty cal' supplied by Tamiya is fairly well detailed apart from the hand grips and the ammo box holder, thankfully these parts are also included in the Hauler set, and I'm sure you will agree do make quite a difference to the completed gun?

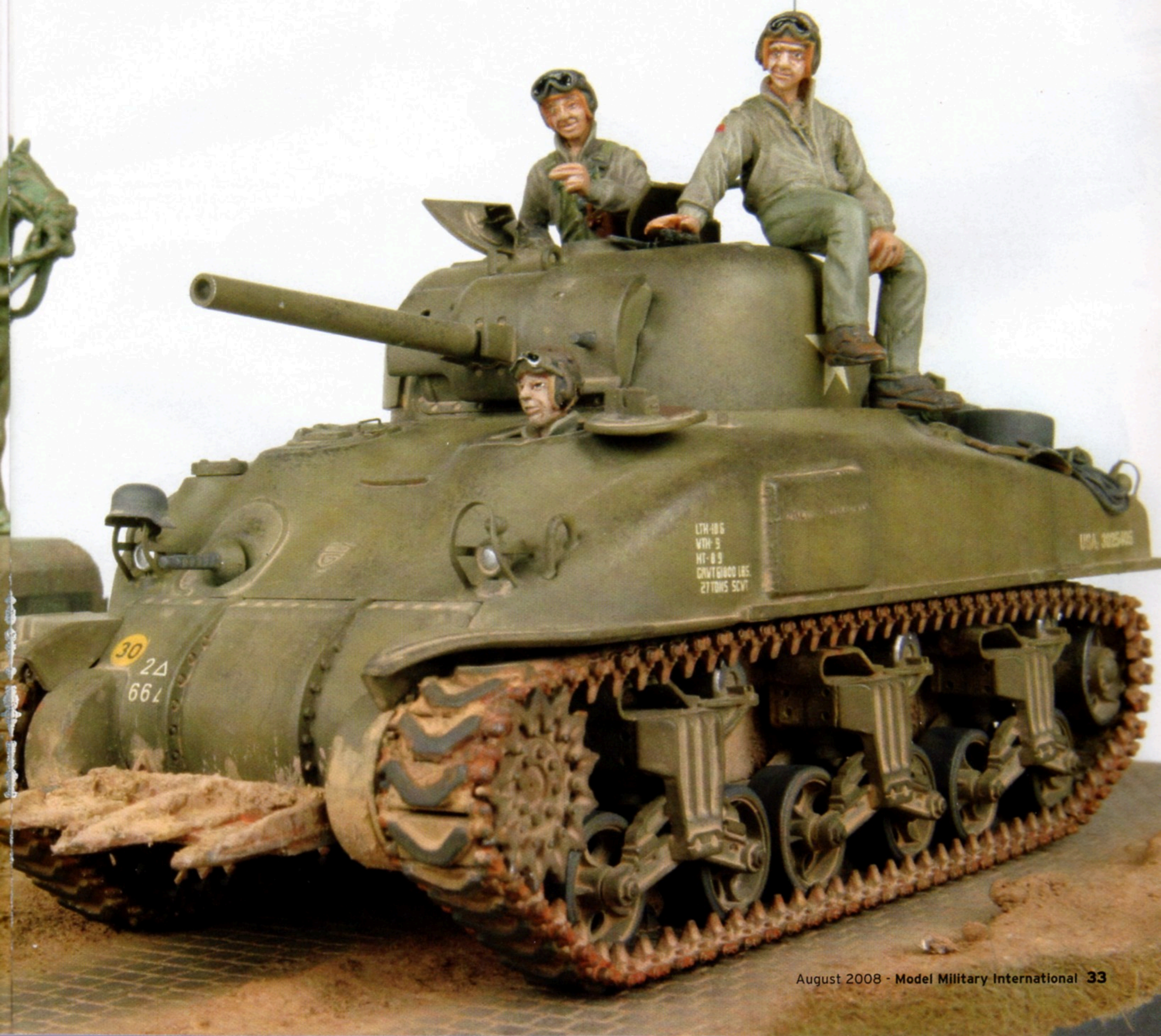
The last items to add were the missing casting numbers to the turret roof; again the excellent Archer embossed numbers were used. These tiny numbers and foundry marks really come into their own, once the model has been painted and weathered and really become noticeable.

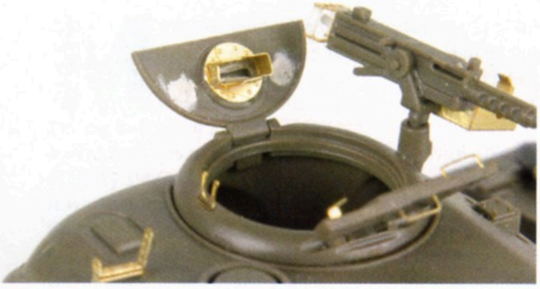
PAINTING

After an initial coat of automotive acrylic grey primer, the model was then given a check over to make sure I hadn't blobbed glue anywhere or made any other mistakes before committing to the actual camouflage painting. Normally I would use colours from the Vallejo range to paint my models, but on this occasion I wanted to try out the new set of Olive Drab colours from Lifecolor. The model first received a solid coat of Olive Drab UA 219, this ▶

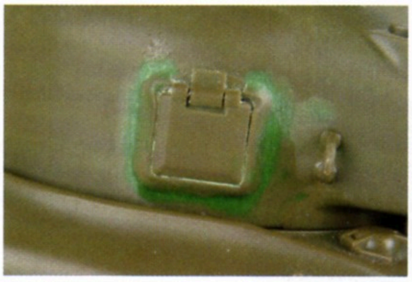
ERAL
TING

The Editor builds and details Tamiya's cast hull Sherman and puts it into a simple diorama.

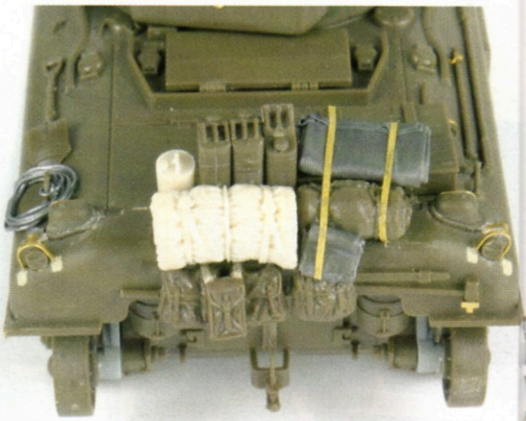




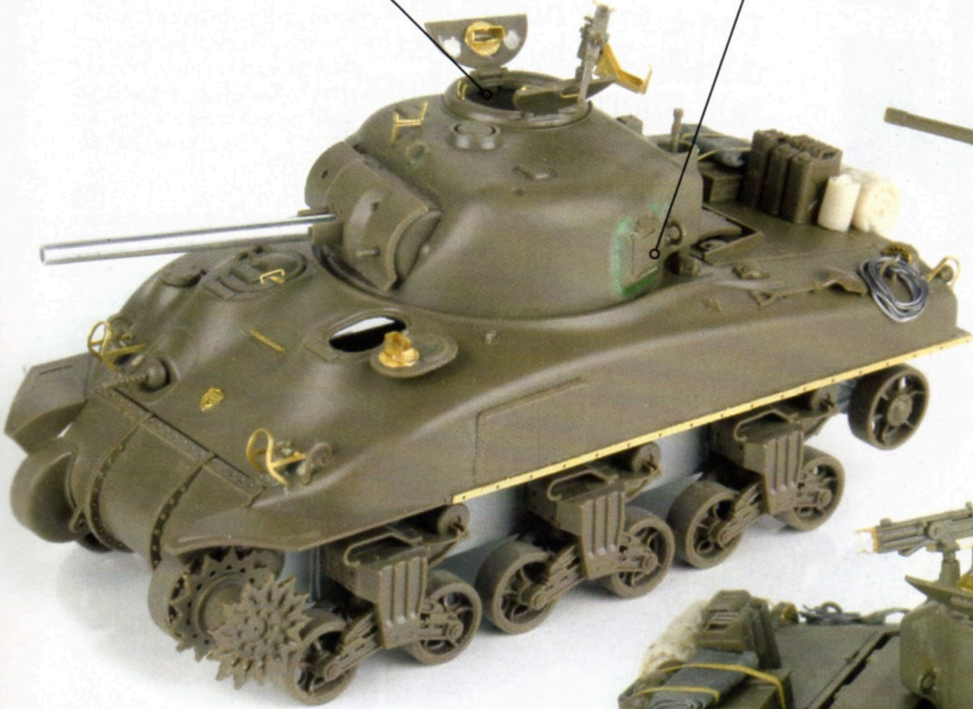
The commander's hatch halves were detailed using the Hauler periscope mountings. Note the filler used on the ejector pin marks on the inside face of the hatch.

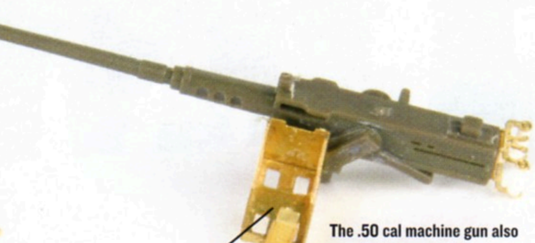


The shell ejection port needed some blending with filler to get rid of the step between the turret part and port surround.

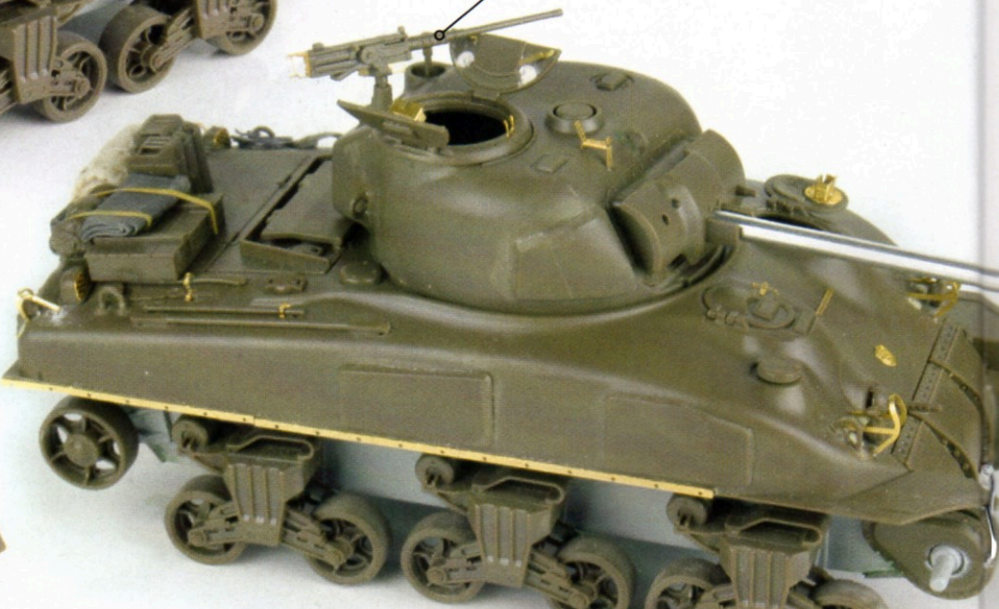


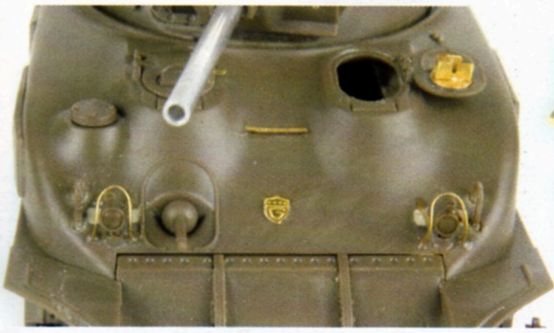
The stowage was made up from the parts included in the Tamiya kit along with the large wooden box from the Tamiya SU-122, the resin items are produced by Goffy. Tamiya masking tape was cut into thin strips to represent webbing straps keeping it all in place.



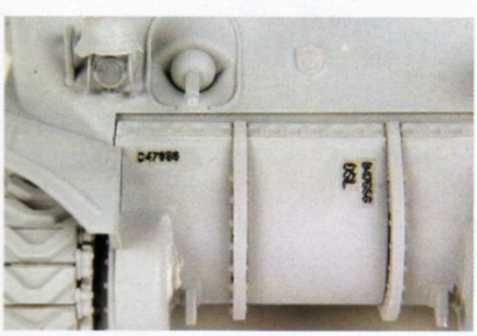


The .50 cal machine gun also received some detailing in the form of new hand grips and ammo box mounting.

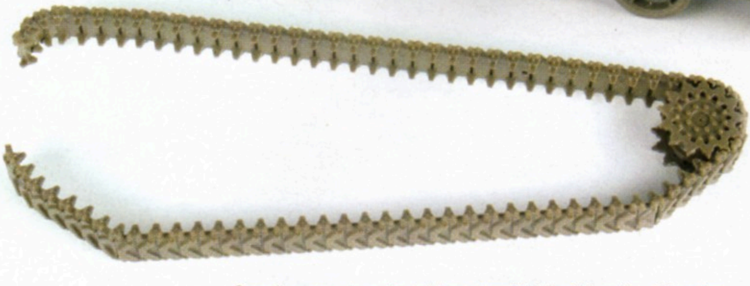




The scale thickness headlight guards included in the Hauler set can be seen to good effect in this photo, Hauler also supply the very nice foundry casting mark mounted on the centre of the upper hull.



Archer's excellent casting numbers and foundry marks, these waterslide decals have been produced using a form of resin to give them a truly 3D effect. The decals were fixed in place using Johnson's Kleer.



Once the suspension units had been assembled the 'link and length' tracks were made up so that they could be painted and installed in one piece. This task was made easier thanks to Tamiya using screws to join the upper and lower hull parts together.

was followed by misting on one of the faded OD shades, this colour was thinned fairly heavily with tap water to a ratio of only 30% paint - 70% water. This faded shade was then misted over the model using my Iwata HP-C Plus airbrush with the pressure set to about 15 psi, this faded colour was concentrated in the centre of panels and (missing word) etc., this can be best seen in the photo of the model that has been glossed and decaled, which was incidentally the next stage. For the gloss coat I used the ever reliable Johnson's Kleer and the decals came from a combination of those supplied in the kit and some from Gaso.Line and Archer, all of the waterslide decals were helped to conform to the surface contours using Daco's Strong setting solution. With the decals all in place the model received another light coat of Kleer prior to starting the weathering.

WEATHERING

This process started with a filter wash using Sin Industries Brown Filter for Dark Green, I may not be using these products as they were originally intended, according to Mig's F.A.Q book, but I love the double effect of changing the overall hue of the surface and adding depth to the detail thanks to its dark dirty brown pigment.

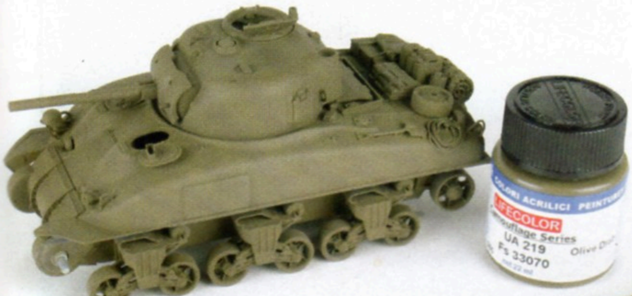
The model was set aside for a couple of days to allow the filter to dry fully before starting the next process.

The next stage was to add some discolouration and staining to the base OD finish, this was achieved by 'dotting' various coloured oil paints randomly over the surfaces. Once this has been done, the next stage is to wash these dots using vertical strokes with a wide flat brush moistened with odourless turpentine, this process helps to add visual interest to monotone camouflage colour.

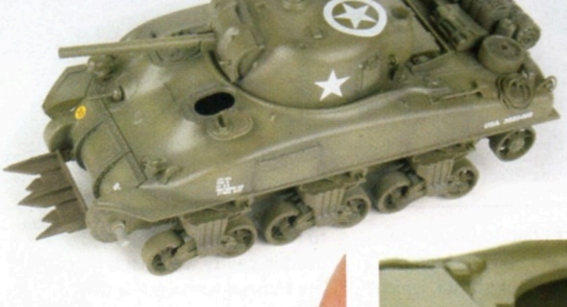
The next step was to add wear to areas which received the most traffic, such as the upper edges of the cast hull and turret and around the hatches. To do this I used Vallejo Olive Drab, this colour is considerably darker than the Lifecolor OD and would hopefully help simulate the paint which has been polished from the crew sliding down off of the tank. A small piece of sponge was used to dab on this colour.

The final stage of the weathering involved a dust wash using a combination of Mig Pigment mixed with Filters, this combination was then used as a pin-wash using a fine tipped brush to apply this 'dust' around raised details and along edges and in any recessed areas. Before the dust wash was allowed to dry fully any excess was wiped off using a small piece of cloth.

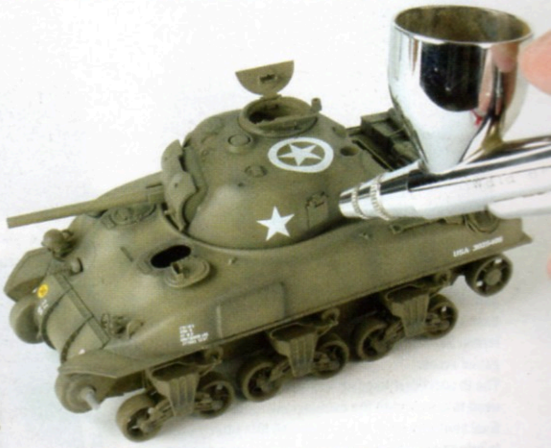
Final detail painting was under taken using a combination of Vallejo and Lifecolor acrylics for the base colours of items such as the stowage, for some reason I took ages painting the stowage, because I seemed to have a real problem getting the actual parts to look the way I had pictured them



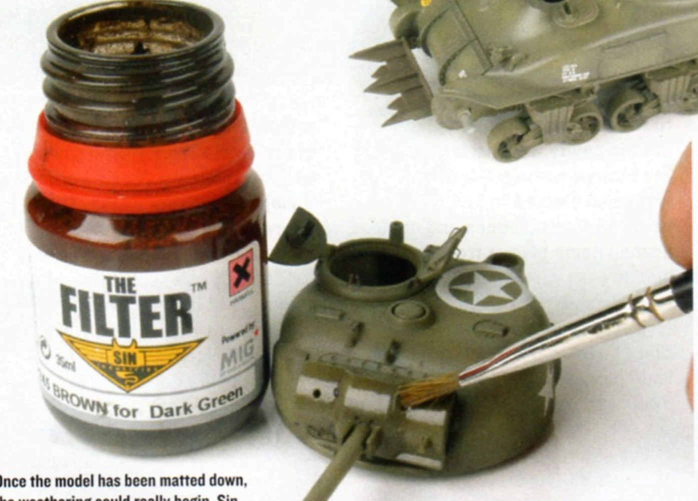
After priming the Sherman received a base coat of Lifecolor Olive Drab UA 219, the Lifecolor paints dry to a perfectly flat finish.



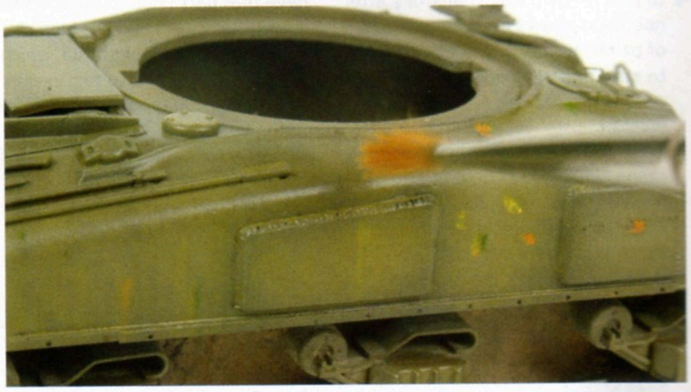
The model has now received a misting of Faded Olive Drab, to start the weathering process. The model at this stage has also received a gloss coat of Johnsons Kleer and decals.



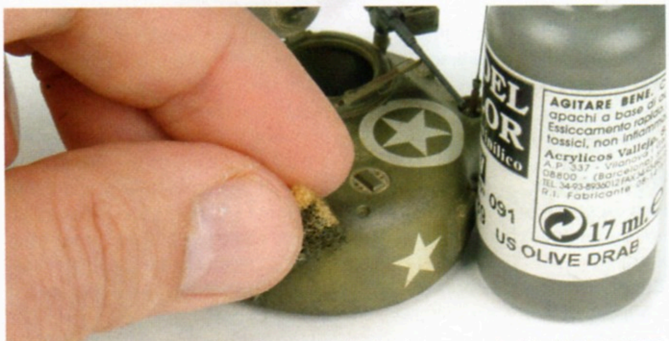
Once the decals were all in place the model was matted down with Vallejo Modelcolor Matt Varnish thinned with tap water. By glossing the model first and using a setting solution the decals have settled down perfectly for that painted on look.



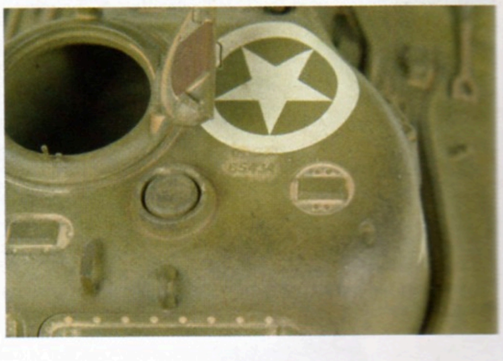
Once the model has been matted down, the weathering could really begin. Sin Industries Filter for Dark green was 'washed' on. This Filter helps to tone down the olive drab base colours as well as accentuating the details.



To help add visual interest to the base colour OD, various tones of oil paint were 'dotted' over the model's surfaces. Then using a wide flat brush moistened with thinners, these colours were blended and dragged down vertically over the surfaces. This technique is great for adding all sorts of stains, streaks and discolouration to the basic paint finish.

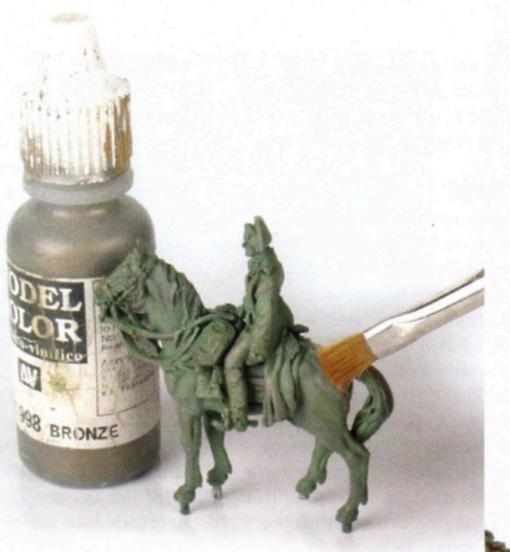


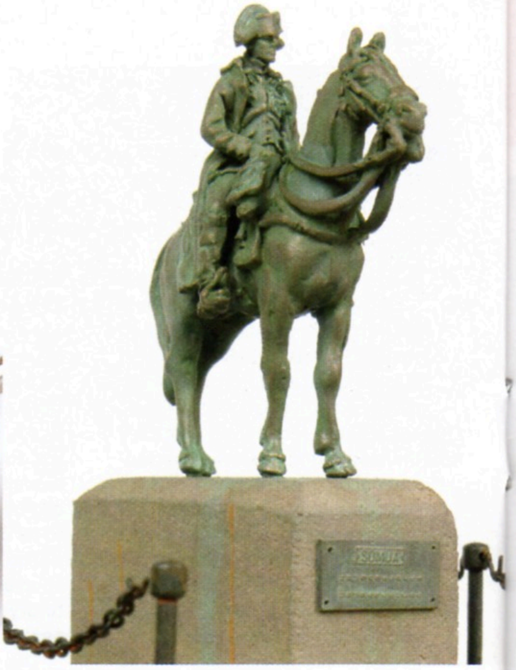
To replicate areas which have been worn and polished by the constant movement of the crew mounting and dismounting, Vallejo Modelcolor Olive Drab was dabbed on using a sponge.



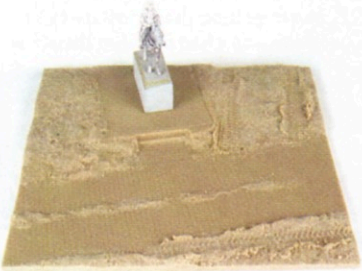
The last stage of the weathering involved a wash of dust made from mixing Mig Productions Gulf War Sand with Brown for Desert Yellow and Grey for Bright Green Filters, this mix was applied in the form of a pin wash around raised details and in recessed areas to replicate dust which has settled and got trapped in these areas.

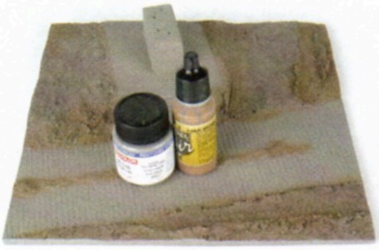
502 Abteilung
502 Abteilung
502 Abteilung
MODEL COLOR
891 INTERMEDIATE
MODEL COLOR
885 PASTEL

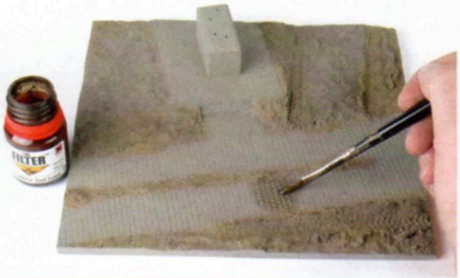


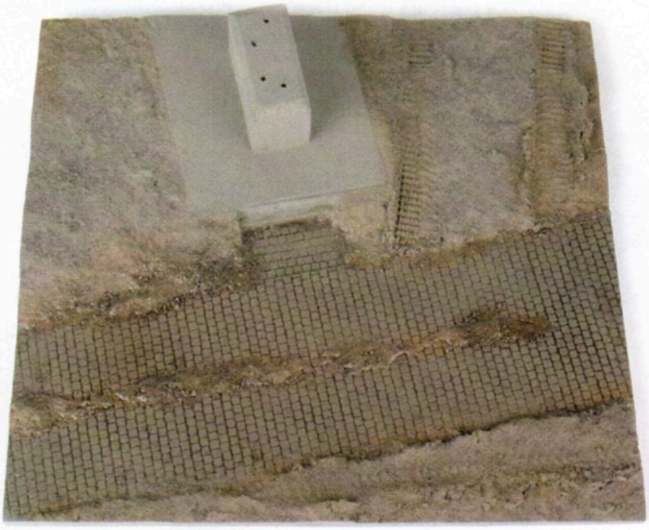


Once the white metal Napoleon figure and horse had been primed, the pair were given a base coat mixed up from Vallejo Modelcolor Pastel Green and Intermediate Green to represent the verdigris oxidation which forms on bronze that has been exposed to the elements.
This was followed by applying a colourwash of Abteilung 502 Green Grass, Faded Navy Blue and Buff coloured oil paints diluted with odourless turpentine. For the actual bronze colour Vallejo Modelcolor Bronze was mixed with Citadel Foundation's Charadon Granite 50/50 and dry-brushed followed by a second brushing with only a small amount of Granite added to the Bronze, this brighter colour was only added to the most exposed areas.









The Verlinden resin cast base required only a new plinth for the statue adding before it was ready for painting. Vallejo Modelair Khaki Brown was used to base coat the earth covered areas, while Lifecolor Israeli Sand/Grey was used for the cobblestone and paved areas.
The Brown Filter used on the Sherman was also used to accentuate the cobblestone roadway. In the final shot it is clear to see how well this filter works in bringing out the detail in the cobblestone casting.

to look in my mind. Thankfully after goodness knows how many layers of paint I was finally happy enough to stop tinkering with them.

DIORAMA

The base comes from the Verlinden range, which I managed to obtain from our sister magazine TMMI's desk. I think the base was designed to have some form of shrine on the hard standing, but as I didn't have that part I had to improvise, it was then that I had the idea of having some form of statue, which I wanted to paint as to represent one made from bronze. After a call to the very helpful guys at Historex I was in possession of an Andrea Miniatures white metal figure of Napoleon on horse back, now I knew how big I needed to make the plinth which I shaped from a piece of 'sugar board' which is very similar to the dense form of polystyrene used in cavity wall insulation.

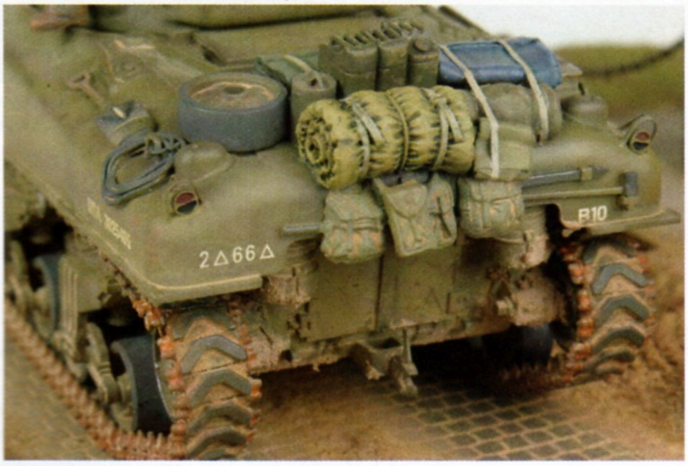
I wanted to keep the plinth simple so elected to just put a bevel on the top edges and make a small name plaque from some plastic card with the lettering taken from Archer's excellent embossed casting number set that I used on the M4. The posts and chain, I picked up at my local 'Antic's' model shop, these parts are actually for ship modelling but I think worked perfectly for this diorama, all I had to do was add the hooks for attaching the chains from thin brass wire.

The only other addition was some static grass which was attached using diluted PVA glue and then airbrushed and then dry-brushed in exactly the same way as used in the Last Post Techniques feature we have been running on page 66 of each issue.

PAINTING NAPOLEON

Napoleon started life as a 30mm white metal figure from Andrea Miniatures

Once the model was primed using a can of Holt's acrylic grey primer I mixed up a light aqua green colour from Pastel Green and Intermediate Green from the Vallejo Modelcolor range. The figure and horse were given a solid coat in this colour, this was followed by the application of a colour wash mixed from Abteilung 502 Green Grass, Faded Navy Blue and Buff coloured oil paints and diluted using odourless turpentine. The figure was set aside to allow the wash to dry fully before dry brushing on the bronze colour. For the actual bronze colour, I first mixed the Vallejo Modelcolor Bronze with Citadel Foundation's Charadon Granite 50/50 to give the colour a toned down and dull look, as I thought the bronze on its own would look to bright for a statue that has been in place for many years. Once happy with the initial 'bronzing' I repeated the dry-brushing but this time only added a drop of Granite to the Bronze, this colour was then only applied to the most exposed edges and areas which would get polished over time from children climbing and playing on it (not that I ever did that as a child...honest).

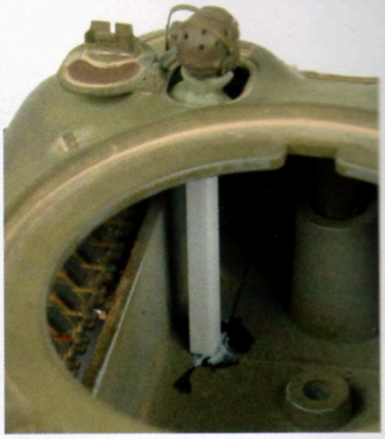


The havasacks, satchels and jerrycans are all supplied in the Tamiya Sherman kit. Note the chevron shaped track pads have been kept clean from being in constant contact with the roadway.

The crew figures came from Squad 48's U.S Tank Crew set and were painted in a combination of acrylics for the uniforms and oil paints for the faces.

502 Abteilung
AK078 Dark Rust
WINSOR & NEWTON GRIFFIN ALKYD
FAST DRYING OIL COLOUR
Flesh Tint
502 Abteilung

The faces were first base coated in acrylic flesh, before being colour washed using a mixture of flesh tint and dark rust oil paint. The highlights were then added using the flesh tint mixed with buff.



Thanks to being able to separate the hull halves after painting the driver could be installed by gluing him onto some box section plastic strip, which was in turn super glued to the hull floor with Bob Smith Industries Extra Strength CA glue.

FIGURES

We reviewed this set of US Tank Crew back in issue No. 3 where I thought they looked great apart from the driver figure, who could possibly be the ugliest person in the history of mankind. Well I decided to swap him for the hull machine gunner and close up the right-hand hull hatch!

The faces and hands were painted first with a base of acrylic flesh and then the shadows were added using a colour wash of dark flesh oil paint mixed from Winsor & Newton Flesh Tint and Abteilung 502 Dark Rust and Abteilung 502's Odourless Turpentine. The heads were then set aside for about an hour before adding the highlights by dry-brushing on a mix of Flesh Tint and Abteilung 502's Buff, again they were then set aside for a while before adding the final highlights. Buff mixed with white and applied using a thin brush to the bridge of the nose, the cheek bones, chins and tops of the fingers before being left to dry fully for a couple of days.

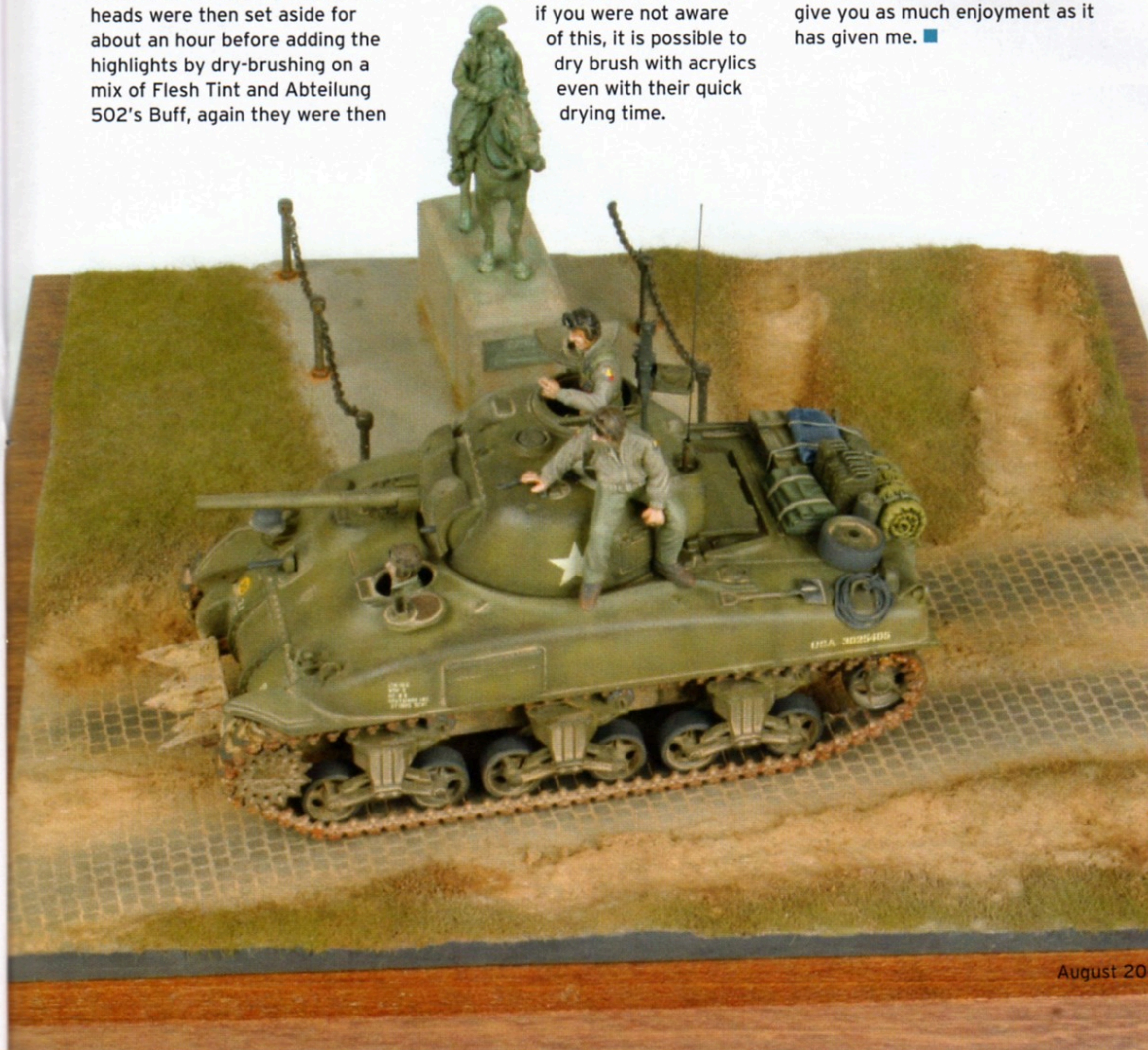
UNIFORMS

All of the uniforms were base coated using a combination of Vallejo and Lifecolor acrylics before receiving a colour wash using Mig Productions Neutral Wash, and once this wash had dried fully the uniforms were carefully dry-brushed with lightened shades of the base colours, and yes if you were not aware of this, it is possible to dry brush with acrylics even with their quick drying time.

CONCLUSION

I have really enjoyed all of the Tamiya 1:48 vehicles I have had the chance to build so far, metal lower hulls aside this Sherman has been a pleasure to build. So much so that I even went as far as adding some extra detail, when my original intention was to build it out of the box as a bit of escapism from working on another long term super-detailed 1:35 conversion project. The Hauler set was very good and provided me with all of the bits I wanted to add or replace.

If you haven't had a go at building one of the quarter scale kits, give it a try. I'm sure it will give you as much enjoyment as it has given me. ■



Thankyou

I must give a special mention to Lynn Sangster from Historex Agents for supplying the excellent Napoleon figure, which I have really enjoyed painting and has made an excellent centre piece to this little scene.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 M4A1 Sherman	Kit No. 32523

Detail sets

Hauler etched brass set M4A1 Sherman (Tamiya kit) (HLX48075)
Armour Workshop 1:48 Sherman barrel (AW48003)
Squad 48 US tank crew, WWII (AOW48/01)
Verlinden 1:48 Sherman stowage set
Archer Fine Transfers Casting symbols (AR88007)
Andrea Miniatures 30mm Napoleon on horseback (NA-015)

Paints used

Lifecolor Olive Drab box set
Vallejo Modelcolor Olive Drab
Vallejo Modelcolor Bronze
Vallejo Modelcolor Pastel Green and Intermediate Green
Citadel Foundation's Charadon Granite
Winsor & Newton Flesh Tint
Abteilung 502 Dark Rust
Abteilung 502 Buff
Abteilung 502 Green Grass, Faded Navy Blue
Mig Productions Neutral Wash

Reference

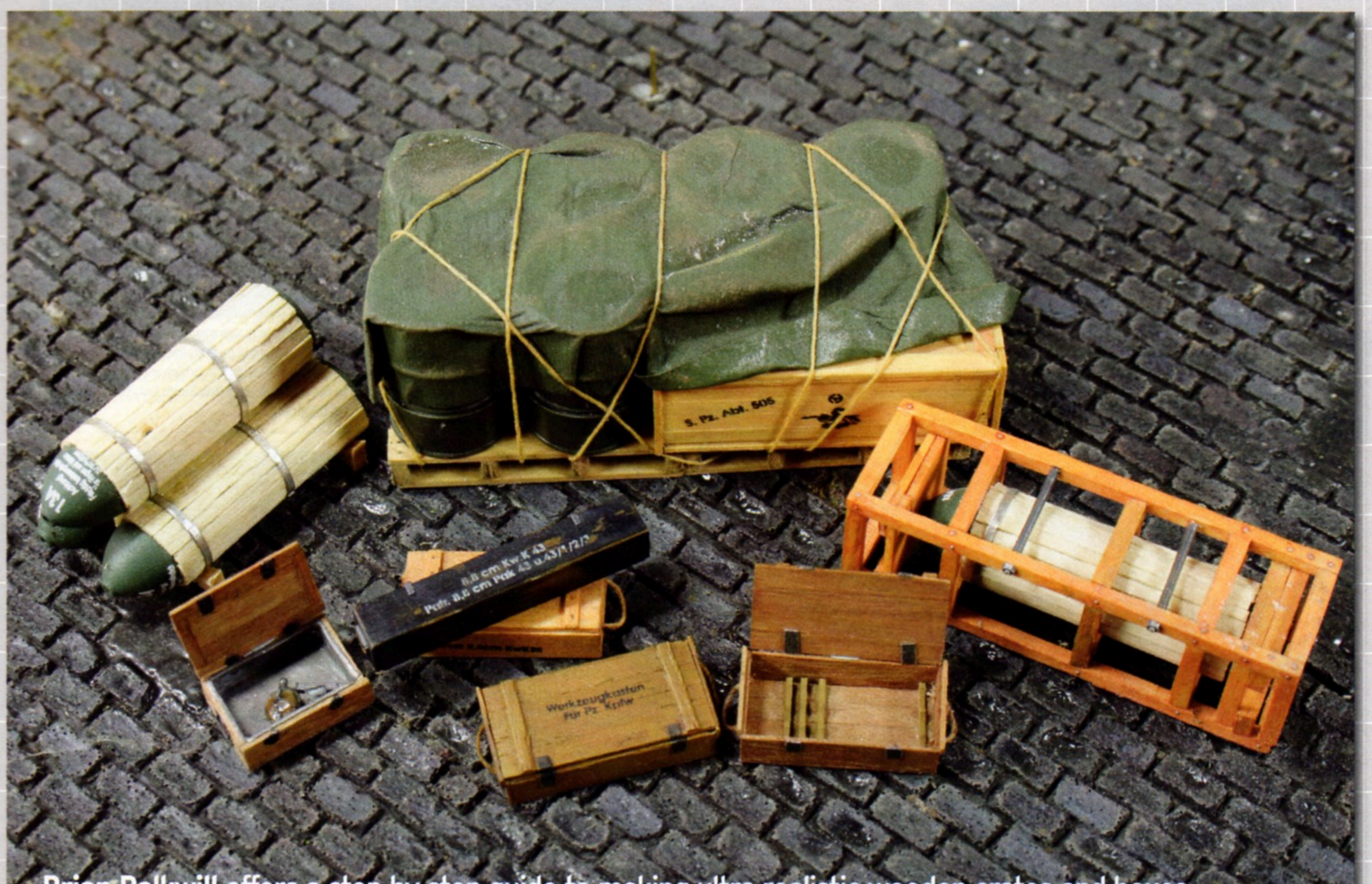
Modeller's Guide to the Sherman
Ampersand Publishing OOP
Sherman Walk Around Squadron
Signal Publications
Sherman at War (2)
Concord Publishing
Sherman in Action Squadron
Signal Publications

✓ Fit of parts, ease of assembly.
✗ Metal lower hull.

Available from

Available from all good model shops Worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



Brian Balkwill offers a step by step guide to making ultra realistic wooden crates and boxes.

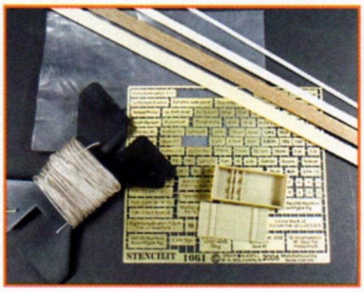
PERFECT PACKAGING

For some time I have been asked to do a 'How to' on scratch building wooden ammo boxes and other crates. I have been waiting for the release of the German Crate and Box Stencil (ST1061) from the Stencilit range from Scalelink, which was released recently. This is 1:35, an ultra thin photo etched brass fret containing 95 markings and two full sets of numerals. There is also a reference sheet put together by Dan Mouritzen explaining how the various marking combinations are constructed. With this set most WWII German markings can be put together and used. Many of the popular ammo crate markings are included in one stencil, preventing the need for a 2-3 stencil combination.

The type and amount of boxes/crates/pallets etc that you can make is only limited by your imagination, or by the item you wish to display in the box. There are some excellent reference sites available, but I have found the best one to be Wehrmacht-Kisten which has images of hundreds of different items. For this build I have chosen to copy the ammo crate that comes with the Tamiya Tank Loading crew. The items listed below are applicable to nearly any type box, the only differences being various paints or varnishes, depending on the item.

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- Stencilit ST1061 German Crate and Box Markings stencil
- Various wooden strips in both Lime and Walnut.
- Scale rigging (brown – 0.5mm)
- Lead foil
- (Optional) Fine copper wire (strip 6 inches of mains cable, open the 3 cores and separate the strands – 1 strand is perfect in scale for handles)
- References: either old plastic/resin boxes or reference images.
- Medium Superglue (CA)
- A fine razor saw



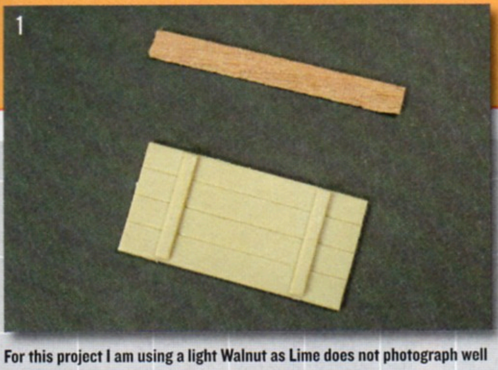
GENERAL

For the wood I typically use thicknesses of 0.5mm to 2mm, with widths of 2mm to 7mm. The 0.5 x 3mm is a perfect match for planks in Dragon/Tamiya plastic ammo boxes. DO NOT use Balsa as it's rubbish for this kind of work. Walnut is the best as it is hard, strong, has a very fine grain, and can be ordered in a variety of shades from light to dark (if leaving a natural finish to your crate make sure you specify the lighter end of the colour scale when buying as dark walnut is almost purple in colour). When cutting the strips I use a razor saw for anything over 1mm thick, and either a medium pair of scissors or a curved scalpel blade for less. For gluing the strips together I use a piece of 0.5mm brass rod mounted in a pin vice – it's then used to pick up CA from a used pill holder. This allows very small amounts of glue to applied. Always file flat any edge to be glued – even cutting with a scalpel does not produce a flat edge. ■

VERY IMPORTANT

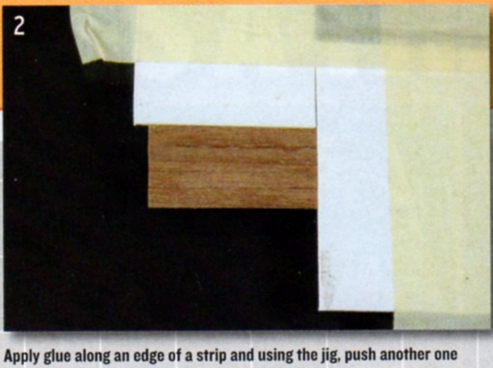
If you get glue from a join seeping onto an area that later will be visible – do not wipe it off as it will prevent staining and painting of the finished box, instead use the edge of a scalpel blade to pick it up.

1



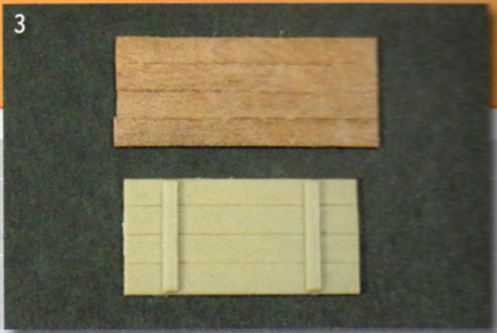
For this project I am using a light Walnut as Lime does not photograph well in its raw state.
I always use a jig to line up and join flat edges together. I use a glass sheet with two pieces of 1mm styrene sheet taped at 90° to each other.
I normally start with the lid. Always cut wood slightly longer than necessary, as you will need to trim and file ends to make them straight/fit. Gently file the edges of each strip to ensure the best possible join when gluing.

2



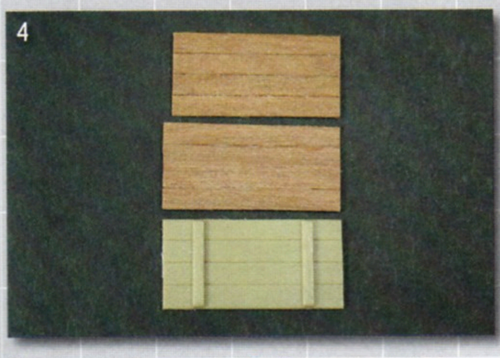
Apply glue along an edge of a strip and using the jig, push another one against it. Repeat until the correct size is achieved.

3



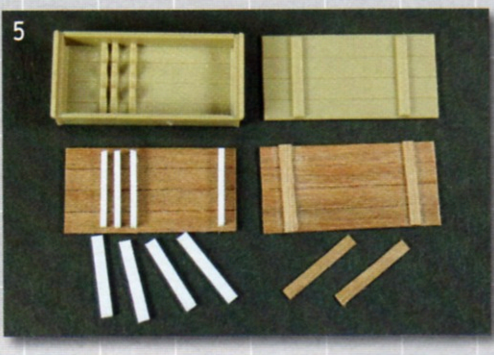
When dry, gently smooth the front and back on a large fine metalworking file (I use a inch Mill File). This is done to smooth out the rough surface of the wood, even at this scale it makes a big difference when painting and staining. You should do this for all lids/bases/sides etc.

4



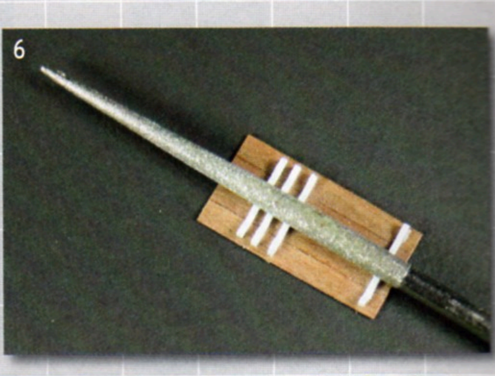
Make a base using the same method. For this box the base is slightly shorter than the lid to accommodate the ends.

5



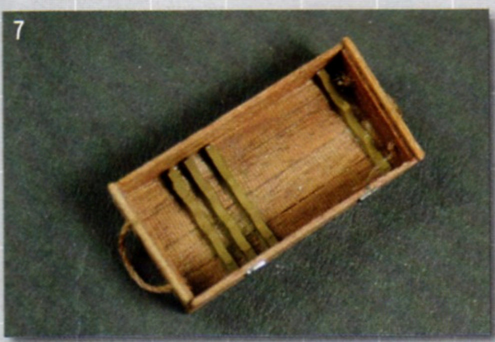
The shell supports are cut from 1 x 2mm styrene strip. Wood will work but is very fragile in this size and tends to break when filing in the profile. I have also cut the reinforcing ribs for the lid. When gluing on the ribs make sure you leave enough room between them for your stencil to fit flush to the surface. If it's a mm or so bigger than the reference don't worry – the ammo box rivet counters won't be able to tell.

6



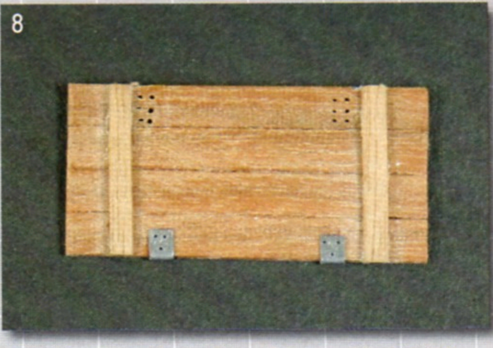
The shell profiles are filed in with a circular needle file. Remember – the depth of the profile decreases towards the front of the box, with the deepest one on the single rest on the right of the picture.

7



Sides have been added from 0.5 x 5mm strip – take care when fitting these that your lid sits accurately all the way round – otherwise it falls into the box – very embarrassing.
The rope handles' holes have been drilled and Scale Rigging glued in place.

8

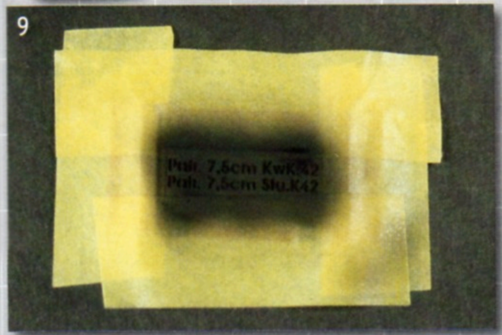


Lead foil is great for adding both hinges, fasteners and for metal lined crates (see example in main pic). Here fastening plates are added, and screws simulated with a dental pick (or pin). At the rear of the lid are simulated screw holes for the hinges which are mounted to the inside.

Future
FLOOR FINISH
RESTORE YOUR FLOOR!

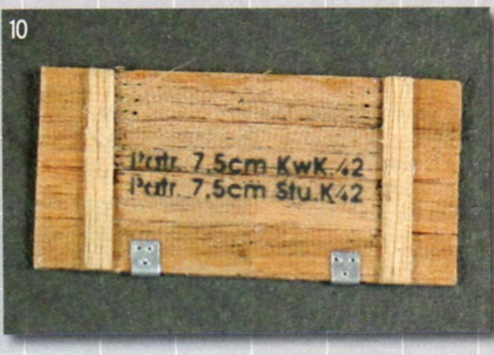
At this point I seal the box with a coat of either Johnsons Kleer (Future) or a matt varnish.
You now need to decide on the final finish of your box. Many are sprayed black or brown, some are left raw and most are varnished as boxes were reused many times. If you do want a varnished finished, a satin varnish is about the best as gloss tends to be too much. For this build I am leaving the wood natural.

9



In this pic the stencil has been masked off on the lid and matt black sprayed in. You can use a brush but it tends to fill the stencil and ruins the effect.

10



Here the lettering does not stand out too well against the lid – using Lime Wood will make it much clearer, as would spraying the box with a base colour before stencilling. This effect can be seen in the main pic.

Painting Tips

I use Tamiya NATO Black to colour hinges and fastenings as it has a nice flat steel look. You can apply washes to the wood after sealing to bring out the grain, and chipping carefully reveals real wood underneath paint.

The effect on the black crate was achieved with a base coat of Vallejo British Uniform Brown, a sealing coat of cellulose varnish, a thin layer of hairspray, a top coat of Vallejo Black, Flat White for the stencil, and then a brush dampened in water used to 'rub' away the black which lifts the hairspray giving the worn chipped look.

Options

Recessed Wire handles - When making boxes with recessed handles use a 1mm thick strip for the box ends and sides. Before you cut the crate ends from the strip, carefully cut the recesses into the strip to half its depth and line them with lead foil (for this I use a Micro Chisel). For the handles take a single strand of very thin copper wire, bend to shape and glue into the recess.

Conclusion

These items are real fun to build, cheap, and quick. In many cases you can replicate items not available for purchase, and the end result looks much better anyway.

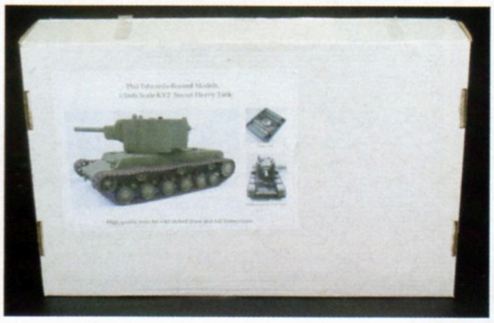
References

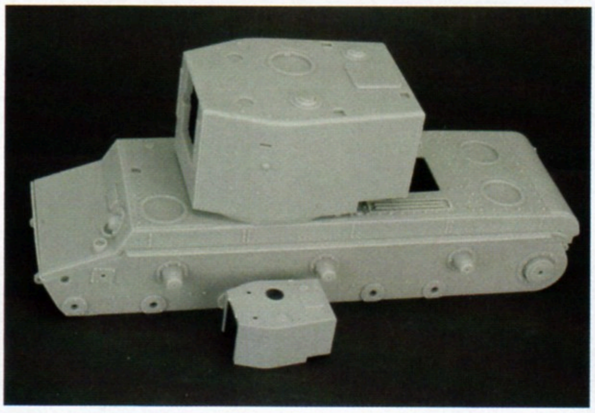
Wehrmacht Kisten: *http://wehrmachts.kisten.free.fr/toutes_categories.htm*

Hundreds of photos of WW2 crates with markings and dimensions

Supplies

The wood strips and scale rigging are available from any good model shipbuilding store - I got mine from *https://www.model-dockyard.com/*





If BIG tanks are your thing? Then this all new 1:16 monster from Record Models could be exactly what you're looking for. **The Editor** takes a closer look.

KV SUPERSIZE

This is one of those models that I don't want to keep the reader in suspense until the very last line to say whether it is any good or not.

To be honest as soon as I opened the box I could see that this one is a beauty. From the clever packing which will hopefully guarantee everything stays in its place and damage free during delivery, to crispness of the casting and comprehensive instructions.

You may wonder why I'm making such a point about the way it has been packed, but on more than a couple of occasions we have had some amazing products sent to the office only to find they have arrived in many more pieces than the manufacturer intended!

The whole kit, apart from the etched brass engine grilles and metal tow cables and handles has been flawlessly cast in a light grey resin, flash has been kept to a minimum and our sample didn't suffer from a single air bubble!

Detail throughout the parts is excellent, from the crisply cast bolt heads covering the engine deck and mantlet to the torch cut effect on the edges of the armour plating and the numerous weld seams. All have been expertly handled. I was also very impressed with the way the texture of the heavy turret had been replicated, none of that horrible dental burr bouncing over the surface here.

By simply dry-fitting the parts for the preview photos, it was clear to see how good the parts' fit actually was and that the parts only needed the smallest of over-pour plugs removing before assembly could begin in earnest, and thanks to a clear set of instructions which contained both colour photos and written text to guide you through the assembly with confidence.

The hull casting features a separate engine access cover to allow the detailed 'drop-in' engine tub to be shown off to full effect.

The model comes with link-and-length tracks, which are very-nicely detailed and are crisply moulded, but will need the thin casting flash removing from each of the sprocket tooth guide holes. This would be best dealt with using an old stiff-bristled toothbrush and a scalpel for any stubborn bits.

Each track run is made up from a long top and bottom length, the top run features the distinctive sag, where the track hangs between the return rollers, whilst the ends that wrap around the idler and drive sprocket are made up from individual links. These are held together with resin pins, which means they remain flexible and any extra slack can be taken up by the adjustable idler mountings prior to final gluing.

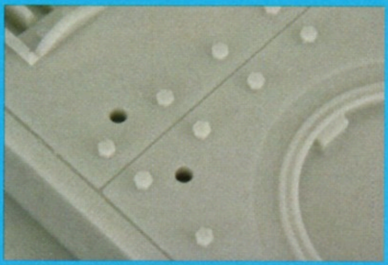
The turret assembly is very impressive and to be honest I can't get used to the size of the thing! Highlights include countersunk screws around the sight housings which even include the tiny slots. Real metal screws and nuts are included to mount the gun trunnions and talking of the gun, the resin barrel has been cast around a length of brass tube, ensuring that it will never warp.

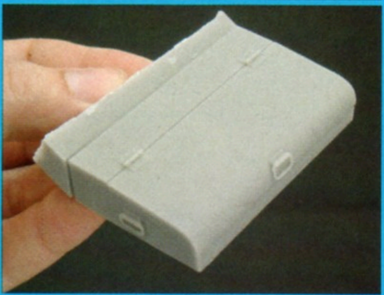
I could go on and on, but I think you must be getting the gist by now that I really liked this model so much so I really want to start building it right away.

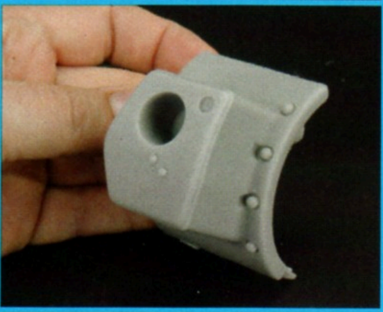
++ STOP PRESS ++ STOP PRESS ++

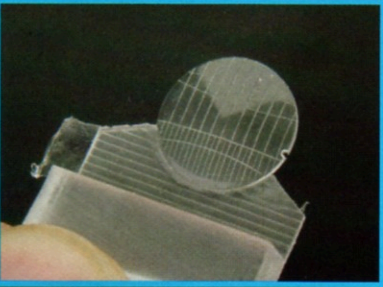
As we were going to press Robin from Cammett informed us that this KV will also be available in the near future with radio control and will include metal suspension components and tracks. A worthy opponent to Tamiya's early Tiger I think. ■

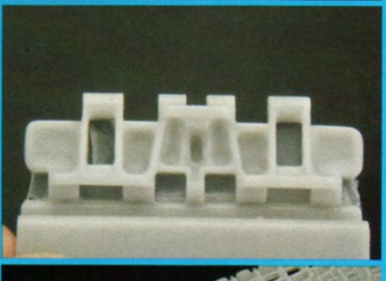
Available direct from Cammett Ltd
www.cammett.co.uk
Tel: 01544 388514
cammettco@btinternet.com

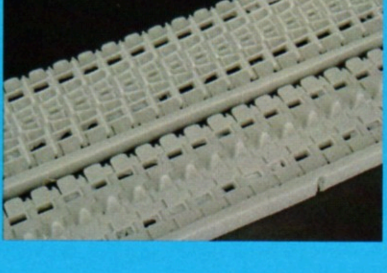




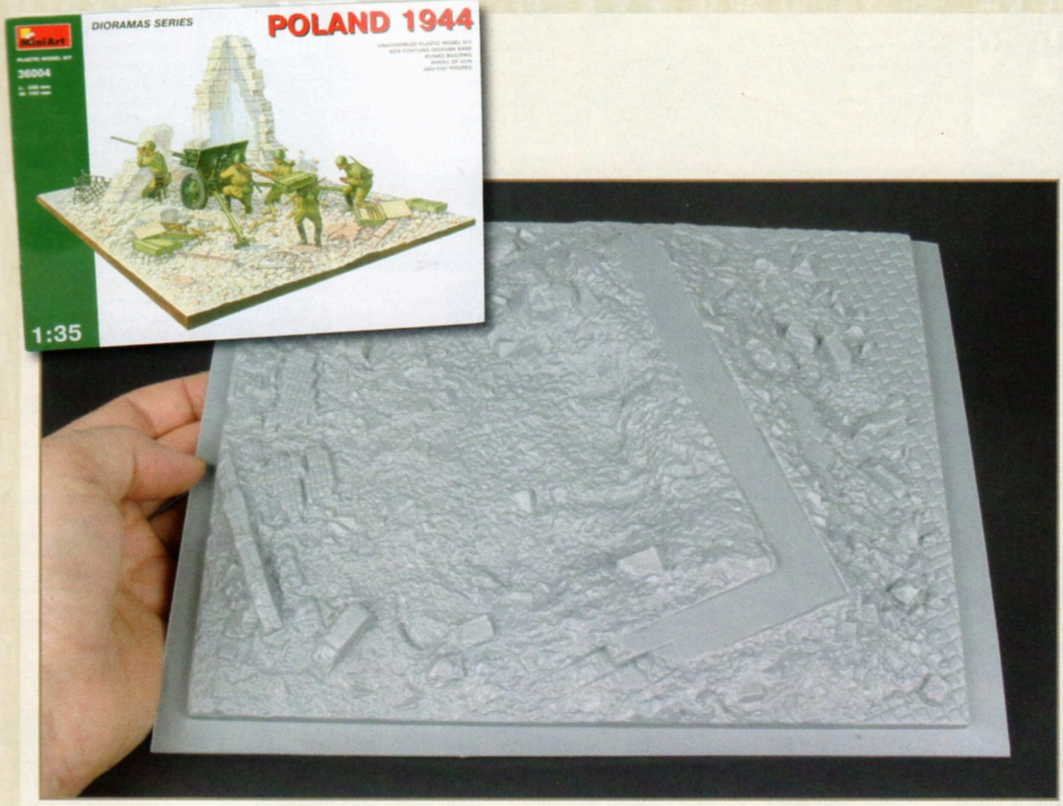


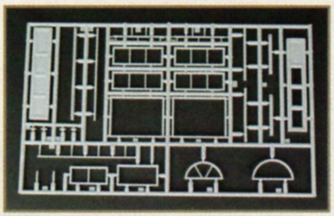


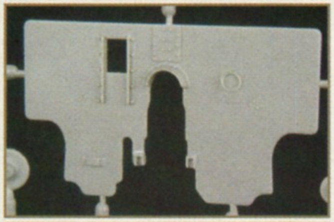


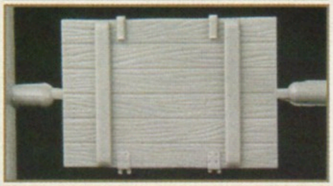


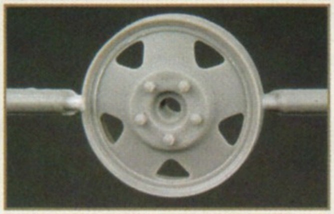
Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

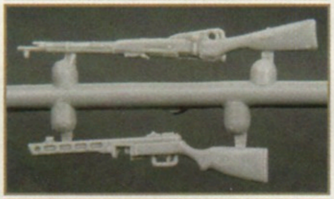


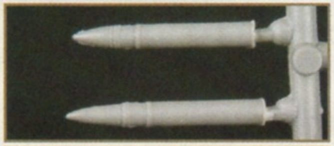












MINIART

DIORAMA SERIES 1:35 POLAND 1944 ITEM NO. 36004

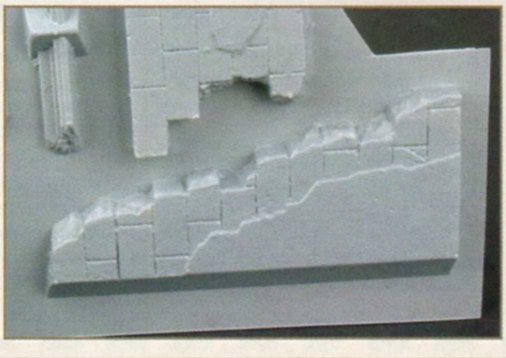
This latest release from Miniart Limited joins the ever increasing range from the Eastern European Company and features a vacuum formed (VF) diorama base measuring 248mm by 190mm, with a corner ruin and a small section of Cobblestone Street. Also included is a model of the 57 mm gun ZIS-2 with an option to build the 76.2mm zis-3 variant, the five man crew is also included. All of which comes in a well presented sturdy box with an artist impression of the finished product which can double up as a painting guide. In the box there are two plastic bags; one contains the diorama base and wall sections with a separate white plastic sprue of window frames and doors. The other bag contains the two plastic injection sprues for the gun, with a third that carries the crew figures. The instructions come printed on six pages with easy to follow exploded drawings.

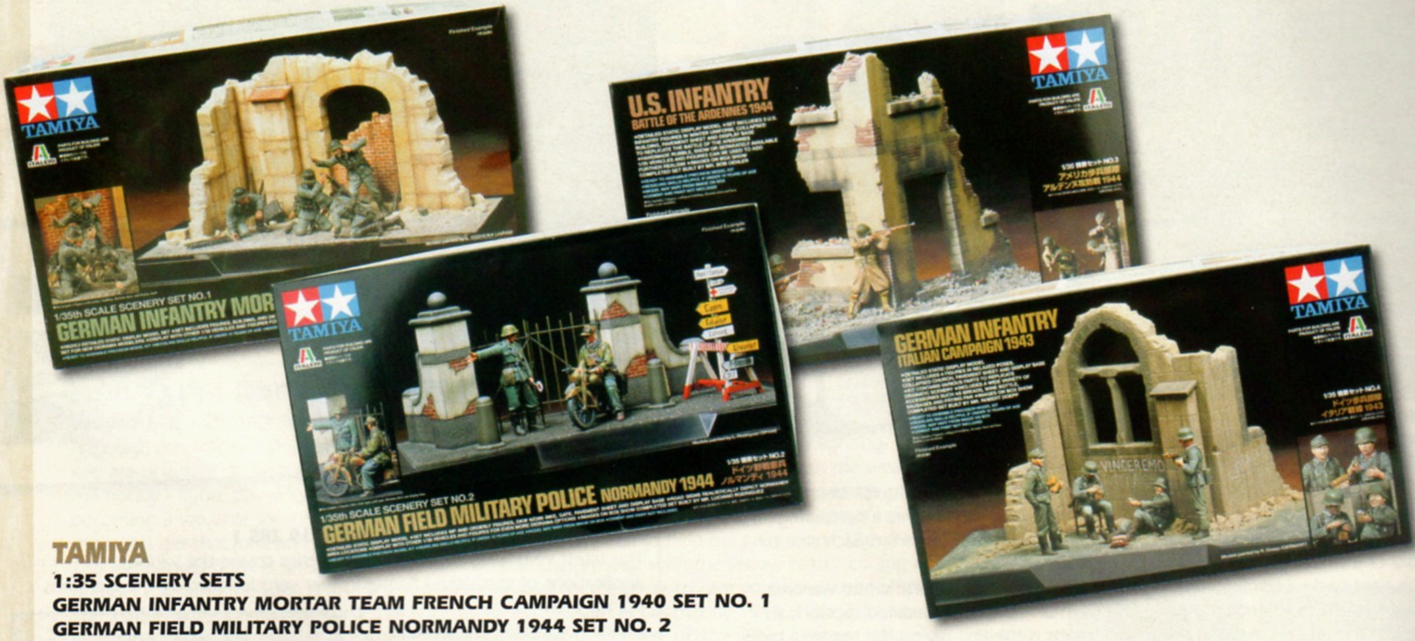
The corner section of the building is moulded in dark grey plastic and is presented on three VF sheets with the architectural features on the internal as well as the external walls, details that are not normally represented from other manufactures. The rubble strewn base carries a good level of detail that is just crying out to be painted and weathered. Miniart have provided location points for the wheels and gun trail spades in amongst the rubble.

The gun comes on two crammed sprues of grey plastic, the gun, wheels and tyres aren't the normal option. Miniart have gone for five separate sections to form the tyre, two sidewalls with three inner sections to form the tread and separate hubs. Included in the kit are two ammo crates and a total of 10 rounds of ammunition, with three empty cases. There are some minor flash issues with the model in general but nothing that can't be taken care of. The excellent crew (late war) consist of five figures, which are moulded in good quality plastic, with crisp detail. The poses are good, full of animation and show an imaginative approach from Miniart to their figure sets. The poses include three kneeling and two crouching figures. The kneeling figures are of the gun commander, gunner and loader. The remaining two figures are bringing the ammunition forward. The heads are generally good with some variation between them; all wear the Soviet pattern steel helmet, and are issued with personnel weapons (pistol, two Mosin-Nagant rifles, and two PPSh sub-machine guns) and personal equipment. But they are not without fault; care is needed when matching the leg halfs and careful removal of flash and seam lines is required. The Miniart web site (www.miniart-models.com) is well worth a visit for examples of the nicely finished figure sets; there is also a useful section on the construction of the vac-formed buildings. Highly recommended.

Available from all good model shops, distributed in the UK by Creative Models.

8/10 - Kev Smith




TAMIYA
1/35th SCALE SCENERY SET NO.1
GERMAN INFANTRY MOR
U.S. INFANTRY
BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES 1944
1/35th SCALE SCENERY SET NO.2
GERMAN FIELD MILITARY POLICE NORMANDY 1944
GERMAN INFANTRY
ITALIAN CAMPAIGN 1943
VINCEREMO

TAMIYA

1:35 SCENERY SETS
GERMAN INFANTRY MORTAR TEAM FRENCH CAMPAIGN 1940 SET NO. 1
GERMAN FIELD MILITARY POLICE NORMANDY 1944 SET NO. 2
U.S. INFANTRY BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES 1944 SET NO. 3
GERMAN INFANTRY ITALIAN CAMPAIGN 1943 SET NO. 4

Similar to the Miniart set, Tamiya have decided to combine some of their figure sets into self contained scenes. The figure sets have been available separately or have been included in some of their vehicle kits for quiet some time. Now thanks to the combined efforts of Tamiya and Italeri, who produce the buildings for these sets, we now have the ideal 'diorama in a box' perfect for encouraging new modellers to have a go at trying their hand at dioramas without the expense and worry of messing it up.

I'm sure these sets will be a real winner and thanks to the amount of figure sets and buildings Tamiya and Italeri have in their respective ranges there will hopefully be plenty more great combinations on the way.

The Editor

KEV SMITH TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GERMAN MORTAR SET NO.1.

The mortar set first appeared from Tamiya back in 1995 and have now been combined with Italeri's bricked up church door and a 20 x 10.5cm piece of cobblestone embossed cardboard to be mounted on a 21.5 x 12cm black plastic base.

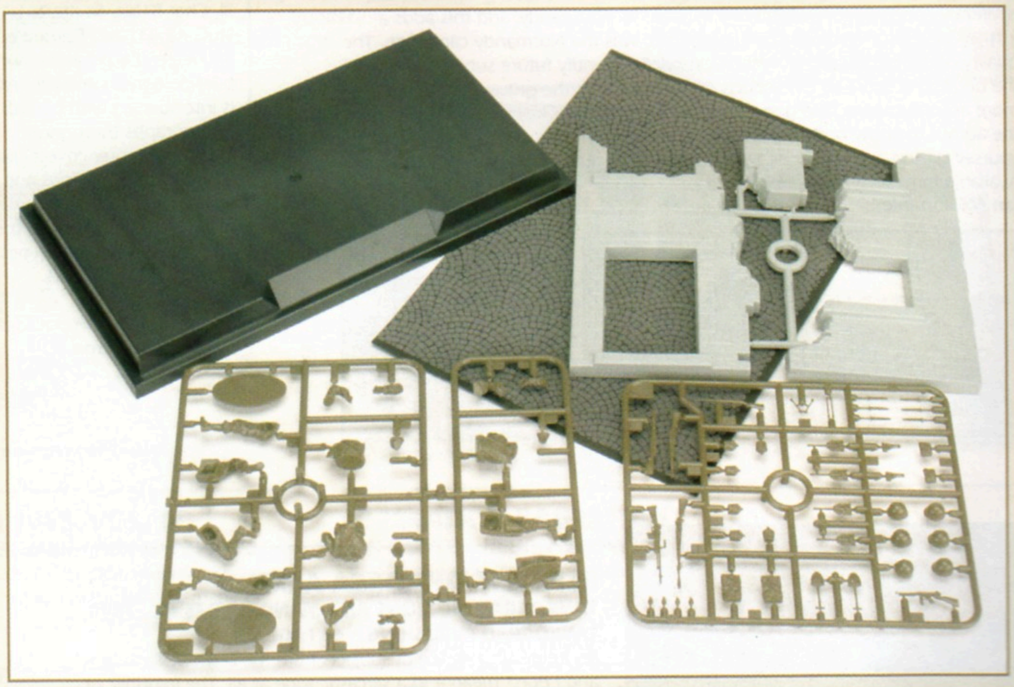
The figures come on one sprue modelled in green plastic, overall the detail is good but with the usual mould seams running down the front and back of both the legs and arms. Also included on this sprue is a small jig to ensure the mortar is fixed at the proper angle for the figure to line up with it correctly.

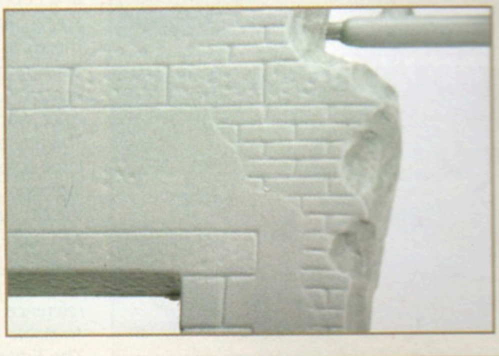
A second sprue provides the mortar tube, bipod and base plate, six rounds of ammunition, two steel and two wooden ammo boxes. A nice selection of personal equipment and weapons are also included on this sprue.

The building comes in three sections of light grey plastic with good surface detail and texture. There isn't any detail on the back face of the wall sections. You could if you wish use plastic card to cap the voids if you so wish. If you thought that dioramas were too complex and time consuming, then these new sets from Tamiya could be for you. Tamiya have brought together several components and conveniently packaged them into one box. Go on, build your first diorama.

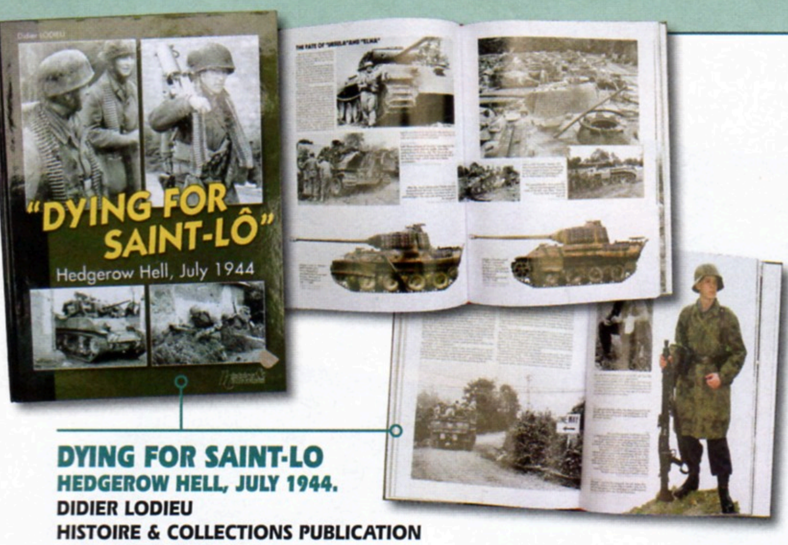
Available from all good model shops.

8/10 - Kev Smith





Book Reviews



DYING FOR SAINT-LO
HEDGEROW HELL, JULY 1944.

DIDIER LODIEU
HISTOIRE & COLLECTIONS PUBLICATION
ISBN 978-2-35250-035-3

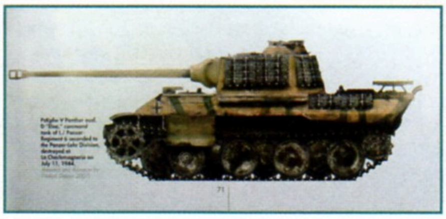
After landing in Normandy the Allies had to push in land and quick before the German Army could bring its reserves into play, this book gives a harrowing account of how the commanders committed ground troops from each side to hold one small area of France, Saint-Lo.

The hard backed book contains 176 glossy pages of black and white wartime photographs from both the Allies and German sides with detailed captions to explain the images. Around the photographs is the text giving the reader a blow by blow account of the two sides desperate battle to carry out their orders, field maps help you visualise the ground battles and skirmishes that took place. Five U.S. Infantry Divisions took part in the taking of Saint-Lo against a mixed bag of German Paratroops and Infantry. It was a slow, heavy and bloody part of the war, both sides took heavy casualties and this is shown in the photographs, you can see the tired determination on the troops' faces within the photographs and when you consider that this all happened in two weeks, it's staggering.

The Publishers do have a reputation for providing good quality hard backed reference books on the subject of the battle for Normandy, and this adds a further piece to the complicated jigsaw that was the Normandy campaign. The quality of the photographs helps the modeller identify future subjects and with the detailed account of the actions of the troops on the ground you can set a more accurate scene. The good thing about the book is the even approach by the author to show both the German and American soldier in battle, you just find yourself gazing at the images before you, I can't put this book down.

Available form www.bookworldws.com

Ian McGonagle



13 July 1944

TANK POWER VOL. LVI
285
Flammpanzer
English text

TANK POWER VOL. LVI
'FLAMMPANZER'

WYDAWNICTWO MILITARIA NO. 285
JANUSZ LEDWOCH • ISBN 97 8837 219 285 1

This latest volume in the Tank Power series covers the various applications of specialised flamethrower vehicles used by the Germans during WWII.

In half Polish, half English text, the contents cover the design, development and application of the equipment and focuses on its incorporation into the vehicle and its use on the battlefield.

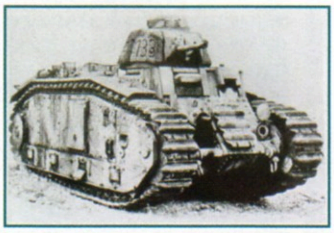
All the well-known vehicles are there, including the FlammPz.1, FlammPz.II 'Flamingo', FlammPz. III, Char B1bis, Sd.Kfz 251/16, StuG 40 (FL) and FlammPz. 38 Hetzer. Each has its own brief paragraph and the text is interspersed with period photographs throughout.

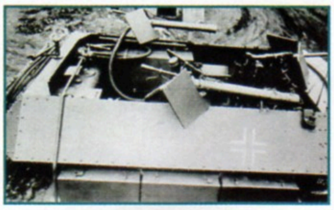
The final chapter covers colour schemes and markings and for this we are treated to some very nice colour profiles of all the previously mentioned types.

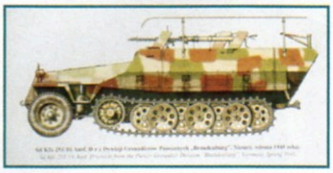
Highly Recommended.

Available from www.worldwartwobooks.com

Darren Thompson







REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARMY
ROKA
Vehicles of the Modern Korean Army ROKA
Die Fahrzeuge der Modernen Südkoreanischen Armee ROKA

REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARMY
TANKOGRAD MISSIONS AND MANOEUVRES NO. 7009

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING • 64 PAGE S/B

An interesting choice of subjects from the team at Tankograd and I don't mean it in a sarcastic tone at all. The Republic of Korea's Army is a subject I knew very little about, but now thanks to this title we are enlightened about the history and development and are shown the array of equipment in use with this army which is on constant alert due to the often uneasy truce with their fellow countrymen north of the border.

The title as with the rest of this series is packed full of superb large colour and black and white photos of everything from the indigenous K1A1 MBT, (which bares an uncanny resemblance to the M1 Abram's, which is no real surprise as General Dynamics had more than a small input in the project) to the extensively modified M38 Jeeps mounted with all sorts of weaponry.

A fascinating addition to the series which offers plenty of reference on this often neglected topic. Highly recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

The Editor

Osprey Modelling
OSPREY
Modelling Waffen-SS Figures
Calvin Tan
Consultant editor Robert Oehler
Painting the figures

MODELLING WAFFEN-SS FIGURES #23

CALVIN TAN • OSPREY MODELLING • ISBN 978-1-84176-837-3

Although this title isn't the latest in the Osprey series, I do feel it is one that needs highlighting. Certainly if you are unaware of this particular title and if like me, need all the help you can get with the weakest part of the hobby - figure painting, so any books that help are welcome. The Osprey Modelling range of books is fast becoming a valuable source of reference for those of us wishing to expand our knowledge of how the master modellers get that look and because of that I purchased this book to help me paint some 12th SS 'Hitler Jugend'.

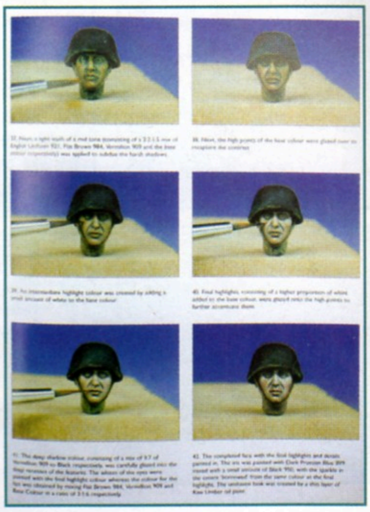
The soft backed book is presented in the now familiar Osprey way, with the yellow colour coding and series number denoting the subject and a set of colour images on the cover to give you a snapshot of the contents.

The 1st SS Panzer Division at Kursk 1943, 1st SS Panzer Division at Normandy 1944, 12th SS Panzer Division at Normandy 1944 and the 3rd SS Panzer Division at Vienna 1945 make up the subject matter. All are detailed to a very high standard and the step by step painting helps show this detail. As a very poor figure painter I find this style of presentation invaluable, far more than a DVD, you can sit with the book on your workbench and follow the author through his master class. At the start of each subject you get a break down of the materials used so that you can exactly copy the author. Clear colour photographs with accompanying text leave you in no doubt of the next step of the project. The author walks you through the processes showing all the fine detail added to the figure and the base, this is part of the magic of the book, it's not just a 'lets paint a figure' lesson. Pages are set aside to show you the camouflage and how the colours make up the pattern, very useful.

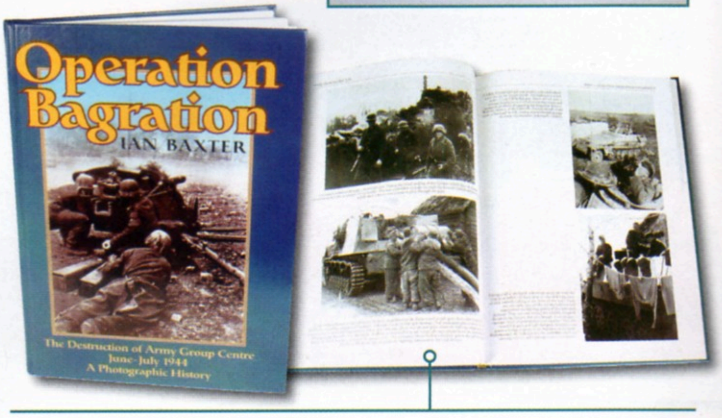
This has for me been the best 80 paged book I have purchased in a long time, concise, informative and a price that won't break the bank. Can I now have one on British and American Troops?

Available from all good book sellers or direct from www.ospreypublishing.com

Ian McGonagle



TANK POWER vol. XLIX
276
Panzerwaffe 1945
vol. IV
English text



TANK POWER 'PANZERWAFFE 1945' VOL. IV

WYDAWNICTWO MILITARIA NO. 276 • J. SOLARZ • ISBN 83 7219 276 9

We're now up to Vol. IV with this 'Panzerwaffe 1945' title and just like the previous volumes it's jam-packed with late war photographs, many of which I wasn't familiar with, so there's obviously still plenty of new material being un-earthed.

This time around there is English text, alongside the Polish, so an improvement on the previous volumes.

The book consists of 82 pages, in A4 soft-back style and comprises 72 black and white period photographs, 7 maps and 11 colour plate schemes.

Personally I love these books as there are so many diorama and model ideas within, many of which focus on unusual vehicles or colour schemes that were indicative of the German Army in its final stages of defeat.

If I have one small complaint, it's that we seldom, if ever see the real vehicle to which the colour plate is attributed in the book, but I have noticed that many of these colour plates do relate to vehicles in earlier volumes within the series. Pity the two don't appear together, just to give some authenticity to what are otherwise excellent artist's impressions. Highly Recommended.

Available from www.worldwartwobooks.com

Darren Thompson

'OPERATION BAGRATION'

IAN BAXTER • HELION & COMPANY • ISBN 978 1 906033 09 5

If you enjoy your reference books packed with pictures then this is for you.

The book begins with a brief introduction and prologue, outlining the story behind Army Group Centre's complete annihilation at the hands of the Russians, during the summer offensive of 1944.

After this, the book relies almost solely on over 175 captioned period photographs of the battle, many of which were new to me, with a good few that I had seen before, but all well reproduced nonetheless.

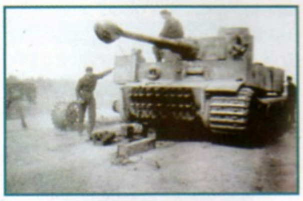
Images are included of both the German and Russian forces, though quite heavily weighted toward the former, but with plenty of inspiration for the modeller and diorama builder.

The book concludes with German organizational information and the order of battle for the period. Definitely one to add to the collection. Highly Recommended.

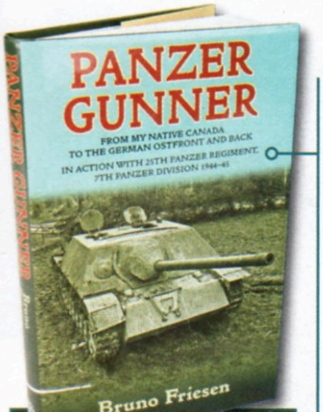
My thanks to Casemate Publications for the review samples.

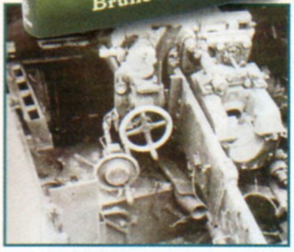
Available from www.casematepublishing.co.uk

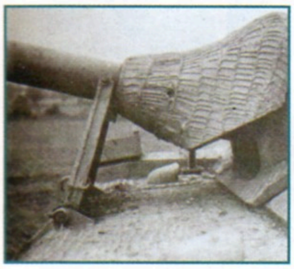
Darren Thompson



Book Reviews


PANZER GUNNER
FROM MY NATIVE CANADA TO THE GERMAN OSTFRONT AND BACK
IN ACTION WITH 25TH PANZER REGIMENT, 7TH PANZER DIVISION 1944-45
Bruno Friesen





'PANZER GUNNER'

BRUNO FRIESEN
PUBLISHED BY HELION & COMPANY
SBN 978 1 906033 11 8

This new title tells the life story of the author, Bruno Friesen, who served during WWII as a driver and gunner in Pz. IV's and later Jg.Pz. IV's, but begins with his unusual journey from Canada to Germany, at the early age of 13, accompanied by his younger brother. His German-speaking Ukrainian parents had emigrated to Canada in the 1920's, but Bruno's Father envisaged a better life for his boys under the Third Reich, so they were put on a ship, alone, destined for a land they had never visited, with a language neither of them spoke.

As Germany was at war, Bruno was inevitably drafted into the Wehrmacht, the book focuses mainly on his training & service with the 25. Panzer Regiment, with 7. Panzer Division. The book goes into very detailed explanation of what it's like to serve as a crew in these vehicles, battle experiences, loading and firing the main gun and general life in the Wehrmacht, but as well as the technical side, also has a very human element describing the bleak, desperate side of warfare, as well as quite a bit of humour.

There are a few photographs from the author's own collection, along with some familiar vehicle photos, all in all an enjoyable read.

Highly Recommended.

My thanks to Casemate Publications, for the review sample.

Available from www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Darren Thompson

St
gp
PANZER LEHR DIVISION
1944—45
Helion WWII German Military Studies Volume 1

'PANZER LEHR DIVISION 1944-45' VOL.1

EDITED & TRANSLATED BY DR. FREDERICK P. STEINHARDT
PUBLISHED BY HELION & COMPANY • ISBN 978 1 874622 28 4

This first volume in the series is aimed squarely at those of you interested in unit histories, providing an extremely detailed chronological history of the division's activities.

Made up principally of reports and interviews with the divisions' officers by the Americans, the reports tell what it was like for Commander Fritz Bayerlain and his men, being one of the forces on the receiving end of the Normandy invasions and also goes on to cover their actions in the Ardennes.

The book is illustrated with a good many maps and photographs of the key commanders, though no armour is shown.

Recommended if you want to understand the workings behind the division, but look elsewhere if you're only interested in the building and detailing of the models themselves.

My thanks to Casemate Publications, for the review sample.

Available from www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Darren Thompson

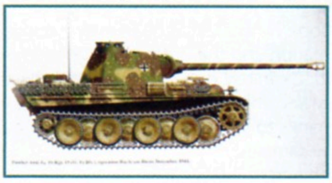
Waldemar Trojca
PANTHER IN COLOR
WAFFEN SS

TROJCA PANTHER PROFILES

The Panther tank has always been a popular subject for AFV modellers. With the excellent Panther models from Dragon out there, one is in need of that one special scheme to finish it just a little different from the rest. Trojca's new 'Panther in color' book answers the call, with 40 pages of colour profiles for you to enjoy. This book follows the format of the earlier 'Königstiger in color' and 'Tiger in color' with page after page of good sized colour profiles, some of which are from all sides of the vehicle. Although one pz.bef.wg. A is featured, the main focus is on the (late and mid) Ausf.G. Most of the G's are pictured during operation 'Wacht am Rhein', the Battle of the Bulge. The Kampfgruppe Peiper vehicles are well catered for, as well as vehicles of the Hitlerjugend division in the same operation. To finish the package some profiles of the 1st SS division in Hungary as well as some vehicles in Germany in the final stages of the war are provided. All in all a good package, so if you are looking for a good scheme to dress up that Panther G on your workbench, this is for you! Highly recommended.

Available from www.worldwartwobooks.co.uk

Jan Peters



TANK POWER VOL. LV
284
Waffen SS Colours vol. II
English text

TANK POWER 'WAFFEN SS COLOURS VOL.II'

WYDAWNICTWO MILITARIA NO. 284
JANUSZ LEDWOCH • ISBN 83 7219 284 4

In a similar vein to the old 'Panzer Colours' series, this latest title from Wydawnictwo Militaria concentrates on markings and colour schemes of the Waffen SS units.

As with the previous volume, the Waffen SS colours books differ to Militaria's usual titles in that they focus less on the period photographs, although there are some 53 in the book and are more heavily weighted towards the colour plates. This book contains 37 pages of these artists impressions, most of which are attributed to a specific division and theatre, suggesting that the photographs exist somewhere of all of these vehicles.

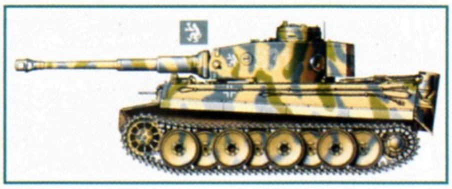
This time, the text is limited, but is also in English, as well as Polish, which is a theme that seems to be developing throughout the range of titles.

If you like taking your modelling inspiration from these colour plates, then you'll find plenty to inspire you, as there are some very attractive schemes within.

Recommended.

Available from www.worldwartwobooks.com

Darren Thompson

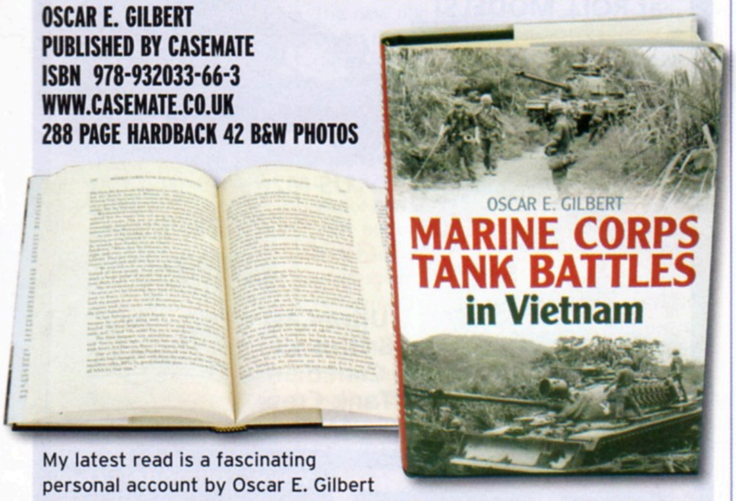


Letters

RECOMMENDED READING

MARINE CORPS TANK BATTLES IN VIETNAM

OSCAR E. GILBERT
PUBLISHED BY CASEMATE
ISBN 978-932033-66-3
WWW.CASEMATE.CO.UK
288 PAGE HARDBACK 42 B&W PHOTOS



My latest read is a fascinating personal account by Oscar E. Gilbert of his time during the Vietnam War as a Tanker with the United States Marine Corps. The book has been a real eye-opener for me as it explains the problems endured by the Marines and Tankers from the bureaucracy at command level, to the struggle for the average 'Grunt' who was just trying to survive each day without getting killed or wounded. The book explains in graphic detail what it was like to be in the 'thick of it' from search and destroy missions and convoy escorts to being ambushed and the constant threat of mines and the deadly RPGs which became more readily available to the Viet Cong and NVA as the war drew on.

The author also talks about the more humorous side of life as the Tankers would beg, borrow or steel anything and everything to make their lives more bearable during those arduous times.

If you have any interest in the Vietnam War or military history in general I can thoroughly recommend Marine Corps Tank Battles in Vietnam as a great read that's very hard to put down once you have started.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

I noticed included a comment about an early kit of the Heuschrecke. I did intend to buy and build this kit and it's currently hidden in my attic waiting to measure up to it's successor.

It was produced by Bandai in 1:30 scale and they also produced a Hummel and Panzer IV in the same scale. They were all motorised. The Heuschrecke was an astonishing choice of kit for 1972, the kit was produced with a workable gantry and in its day was a very impressive kit.

Alan Harrison

Ed says; ***Thanks Alan, I guess 36 years ago someone thought releasing a model of a vehicle of which only three examples were ever produced would be a good idea. It seems that nothing has really changed. If you look on any of the modelling web forums such as www.missing-lynx.com you will see this question gets asked a lot, why do the manufacturers release some of the kits that they do? I guess the theory goes that if it's WWII German it will prove to be popular with the modelling public and be profitable for the manufacturer. It's certainly interesting that back in 1972 when we had nowhere near the choice we have today that the Heuschrecke was one of the few that was available.***

BOATS AND SCALES

I would like to start by saying how well the magazine is going and that having purchased it from issue one, with two subscriptions behind me, I would say that this is by far the best modelling magazine as far as I am concerned. I feel that it caters for 1:35 scale very well, which is good for me as I can be rather ham fisted at times. When I think of the number of models that I have purchased having seen them built in the magazine. I know that I can never achieve the artistic splendour of your contributors, but that does not stop me from constantly trying to improve my own meagre skills.

I do however, have a couple of questions. I wonder if it would be possible to have an article on the Italeri PT boat? I know that technically it is not an armour model, and some purists would argue that it should not be included. I would submit that the PT boat was an important part of the Second World War, not only in the Pacific, but also in Europe. It also played a significant part in landing troops and supplies and agents into enemy territory.

My second question is with regards to the abundance of other scales creeping into the magazine. I used to subscribe to another modelling magazine several years ago, but cancelled it due to the proliferation of 1:48 and 1:72 subjects. I appreciate that these scales can still be used to show different painting styles and other techniques, but the main reason that I buy the magazine is for the 1:35 subjects. I'm sure that there are many that would disagree with me, but with a lot within this hobby it is subjective. I will admit to my preferred period being late war German armour, but that does not mean that I don't enjoy modern subjects. In fact I have a large stash of Legend Israeli conversions and M1A1s (too large my wife would say!) in addition to an Italeri PT boat. That does not mean that there is not a place for those alternative scales. All I am asking is whether it is necessary to include so many of them, and whether the longer term intention is to include more within the magazine.

I look forward to renewing my subscription again very soon.

Best regards
Toby Knight

Ed says; ***The reason we haven't built and reviewed the PT, is that unfortunately Italeri haven't sent us one to review, it certainly would be within the spectrum of subjects I would be happy to include.***

With regards to the second question, I have to try and balance the mag every issue with, not only WWII, modern etc, but scales as well.

I get lots of emails demanding more small scale, as most of the other mags ignore it.

I'm afraid it's a case of not pleasing all the people all the time. I also get hate mail regarding constantly featuring WWII German stuff, so what am I supposed to do?

As you can see I have a constant juggling act to keep a balance and happy medium and sometimes it's a difficult one.

RETURN TO THE HOBBY

Hello and greetings from Finland.

I was just recently visiting my cousin there in England, and came across Model Military International at the local shop. That was it! I was instantly back in the game, as I have been taking some time off from modelling (er..well, Tamiya's mid production Tiger has been awaiting primer for about five years now...). Of course, one can't just start an old hobby by applying some paint on old models, instead I purchased Dragon's Panther G and AFV Club's Sturmtiger both conveniently featured in issue 26.

Oh, and I also ordered some back issues of MMI (of which arrived today, very speedy indeed) and ordered a subscription of your great magazine.

So, I guess that thanks are in order... So thank you for great magazine and inspiration, looking forward for some good times with modelling and getting ideas from MMI.

Tomi Eloranta , Finland

INSPIRATION

Dear John and MMI contributors.

I thought I would join in the ranks in praise of a great magazine. But more than that felt a bit of praise be directed to you ('Spud') was in order and I hope modesty won't prevent you from publishing it?

I met you at the BMSS Show in Bath last year and was very impressed with your enthusiasm and practical advice for those thinking of contributing to a major magazine. I'm glad to say I took that advice (though the article I eventually produced was on a Sci-Fi topic and went into Sci-Fi and Fantasy Modeller' issue 9, sorry!). There is a lot more to producing an article than just making a well finished kit and that isn't always

WRITE TO:
MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel: 01525 222573 Fax: 01525 222574 Email: editor@modelmilitary.com
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

apparent when flicking through the pages of any magazine. That MMI continually has such quality articles extremely well photographed and thoughtfully presented is a credit to you and the individual hard work put in by your contributors. Well done.

Dec Sibley

Ed says; I'm really pleased you decided to go ahead and get some of your work published. I am really fortunate that I have some great contributors constantly sending in some superb work. Another huge part of how good the magazine looks each month is down to our graphic designer, Alex Hall who constantly makes the magazine look as good as it does in a very short space of time. Thanks again for the kind words and best of luck with your future articles.

PRIME REFERENCE

I'd like to suggest two ideas, each maybe worthy as an article in the magazine. Sometime in the future. German late war camouflage schemes i.e. coloured rings etc., I have never seen any pics on the subject.; indeed, do any exist !!
Good pics of external details on the prime mover variants of the M3
Lee = M33
M4 Sherman = M34
M10 tank destroyer = M35
Items such as air lines, compressors etc.. any help with pictures or sketches would be appreciated. As I don't have a computer and only a limited reference collection I rely on the hobby magazines to help me with info. I do thank all who take the time to help fill the pages of the magazine.

Regards
Pete N. Hall

Ed says; We can certainly help when it comes to reference articles on the U.S Army prime movers as I'm sure David Doyle who regularly supplies us with many of our full size reference articles would be able to help, it's just a case of finding space to squeeze them in. Obviously we are first and foremost a modelling magazine and in our current format can only afford to have one full sized reference article in each issue and we do already have quite a back log of full size stuff to feature. As regards to an article on late war German camo schemes, I think it would make a great topic, the problem being though that there doesn't seem to be much in the way of photos available and certainly not many we would have the copyright to publish and secondly no one has offered to write one! There are however some great books being published such as the Panzerwrecks and Militaria series of books which feature lots of fascinating photos of late war German vehicles and their colour schemes. Panzerwrecks are available from Book World Wholesales, Unit 10 Hodfar Road, Sandy Lane Ind Est, Stourport, Worcs, DY13 9QB. Tel : 01299 823330 and Militaria from World War Two Books on 01970 623778.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

TO DETAIL, OR NOT TO...

As this issue goes to print I can't help but be quietly pleased with the way my little Tamiya M4A1 turned out in this issue, this in turn made me think about how my modelling has changed over the last fifteen or so years. When I first started I found that I got heavily into super-detailing my models, to the point where I got obsessive about the most minute detail whilst striving for 100% accuracy. It's strange, back then if someone told me I would be more than happy to only add a few basic details, or worse none at all, I would say they were mad, but that's exactly what I now enjoy the most. The off shoot of this is that I'm finishing more models and working my way through the kit stash far quicker, and at this rate I will only have to live to the age of 185 to finish them all!

Spud

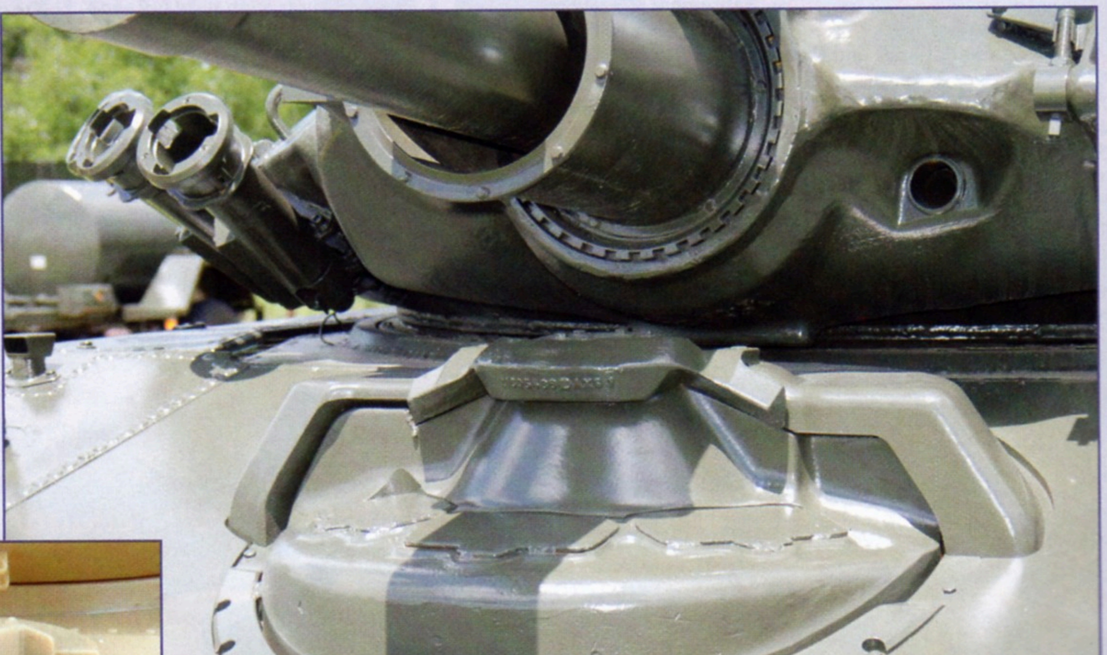
See you again on August 7th!

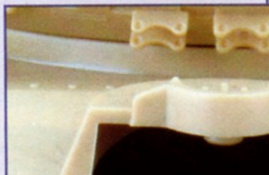
John 'Spud' Murphy

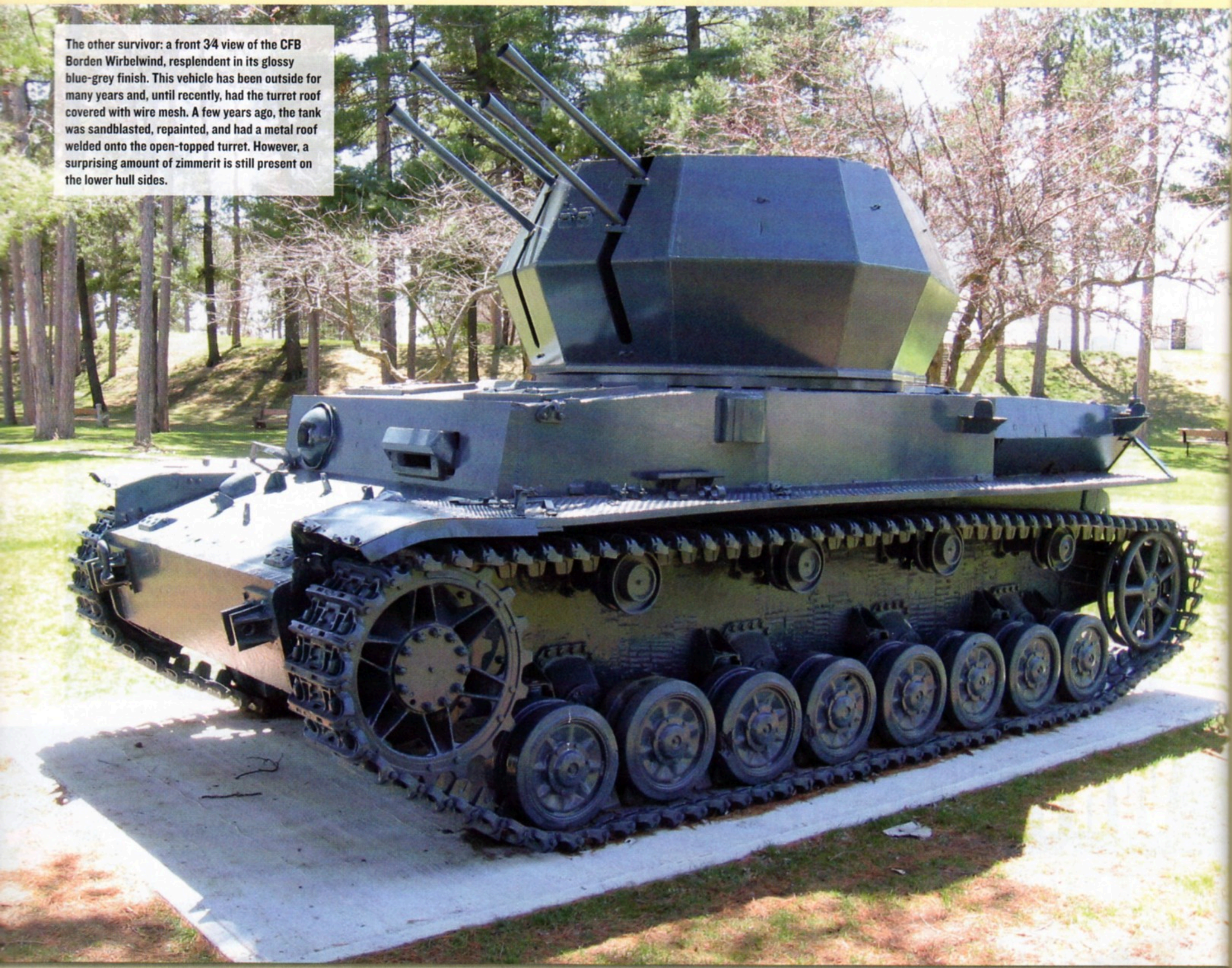
RANDOM REFERENCE!

SHERIDAN SHORTCOMINGS

One of the projects I have on the go is Academy's Gulf war Sheridan. I previewed the kit back in issue 20 and overall once built, it looks like a Sheridan. Unfortunately it's one of those kits that the more you research it, the more things come to light. Most I can live with, but every time I look at the driver's hatch and surround I feel I have to do something about it. Take a look for yourself and compare the two. Thanks to David Doyle for supplying the photo of the real thing.







The other survivor: a front 3⁄4 view of the CFB Borden Wirbelwind, resplendent in its glossy blue-grey finish. This vehicle has been outside for many years and, until recently, had the turret roof covered with wire mesh. A few years ago, the tank was sandblasted, repainted, and had a metal roof welded onto the open-topped turret. However, a surprising amount of zimmerit is still present on the lower hull sides.

SURVIVING STORM

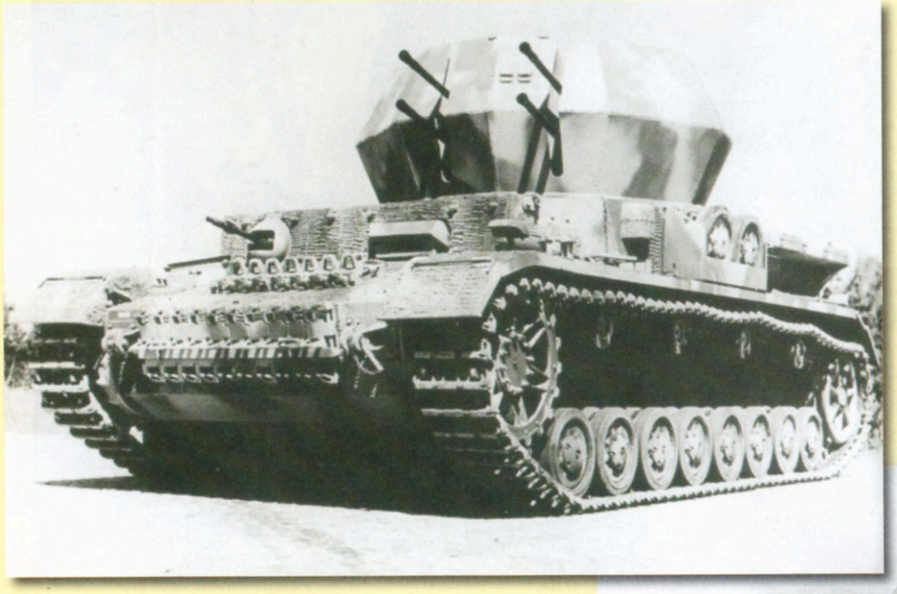
Scott Taylor provides us with some fascinating photos of a surviving Flakpanzer IV at Canadian Forces Base Borden.

As the Second World War progressed, German control of the skies was increasingly contested and finally, by the summer of 1944, pretty much lost. To compensate for this, the German army devoted more effort towards mobile anti-aircraft tanks (flakpanzers). Third in the line of flakpanzers produced (after the Flakpanzer 38(t) and the Flakpanzer IV Möbelwagen), the Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind (Sd. Kfz 1613) is the best-known of the German anti-aircraft tanks.

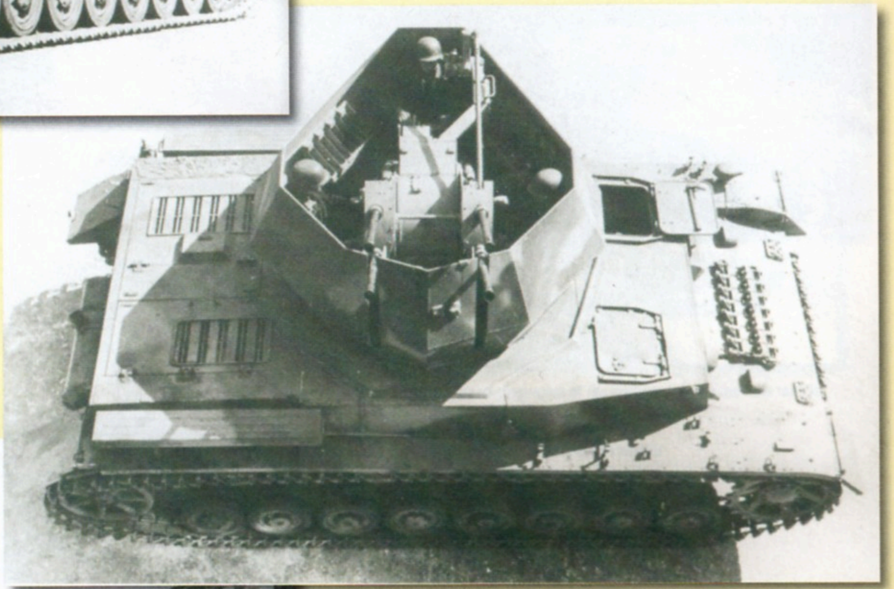
The Wirbelwind was designed to address the shortcomings of both the Flakpanzer 38(t) (limited firepower) and the Möbelwagen (lack of protection for the gun crew) by adopting an open-topped fully traversing turret with a 2cm Flakvierling 38 quadruple mount inside. After the success of the prototypes built in May 1944, series production began in July 1944. No Wirbelwinds were new-builds; all were converted from rebuilt Panzer IV Ausf. G, H, or J hulls at the Army-controlled Ostbau facility in Sagan. Approximately 122 vehicles were converted before the line shifted to making the Flakpanzer IV Ostwind (armed with a 3.7 cm FlaK 43 in an open-topped turret on a modified Panzer IV hull).

One of only two known surviving Wirbelwinds sits on outdoor display in Worthington Park at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario, Canada (the other is in Rendsburg, Germany). The elements have not been kind to this vehicle, which is missing many parts and has seriously rusted in places; the interior in particular is a real mess. Nevertheless, this tank is a valuable artefact, and I hope that it gets treated as such and taken inside for preservation and restoration soon.

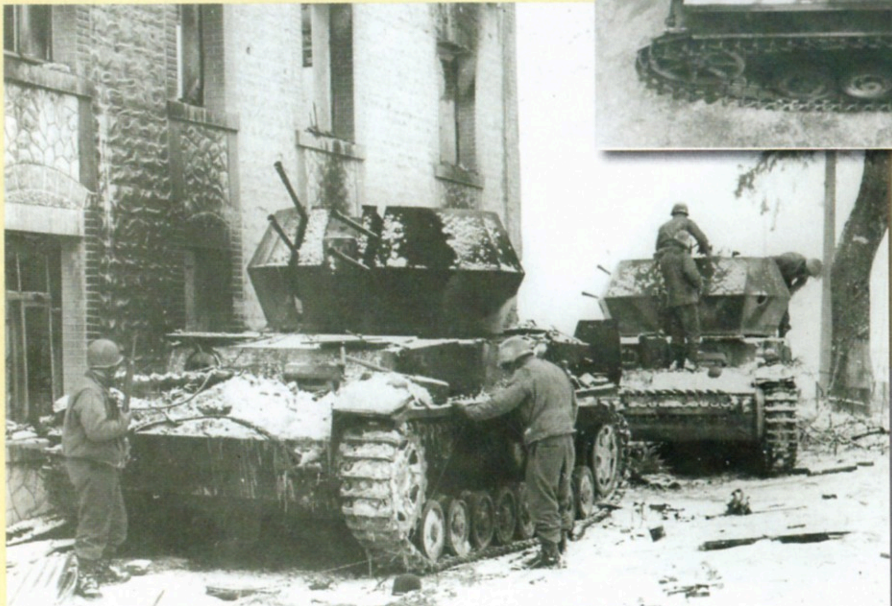
Special thanks to Luke Pitt for providing the impetus to photograph the Wirbelwind at CFB Borden and to write this article, to David Doyle for so graciously providing the vintage Wirbelwind photos, and as always to my family for their support and tolerance. ■



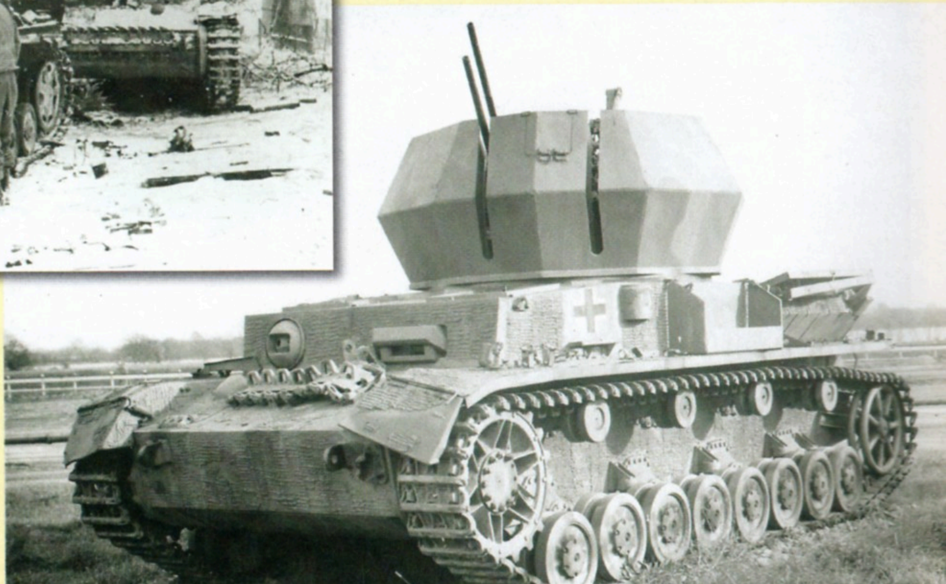
One of the first Wirbelwinds completed posed for photographs before delivery to a front-line unit. The bolted appliqué armour on the glacis plate indicates that this Wirbelwind was based on a Panzer IV Ausf. G hull. The tank has a full coat of zimmerit, four rubber-rimmed return rollers, and tracks with open guide horns. *Photo via David Doyle.*



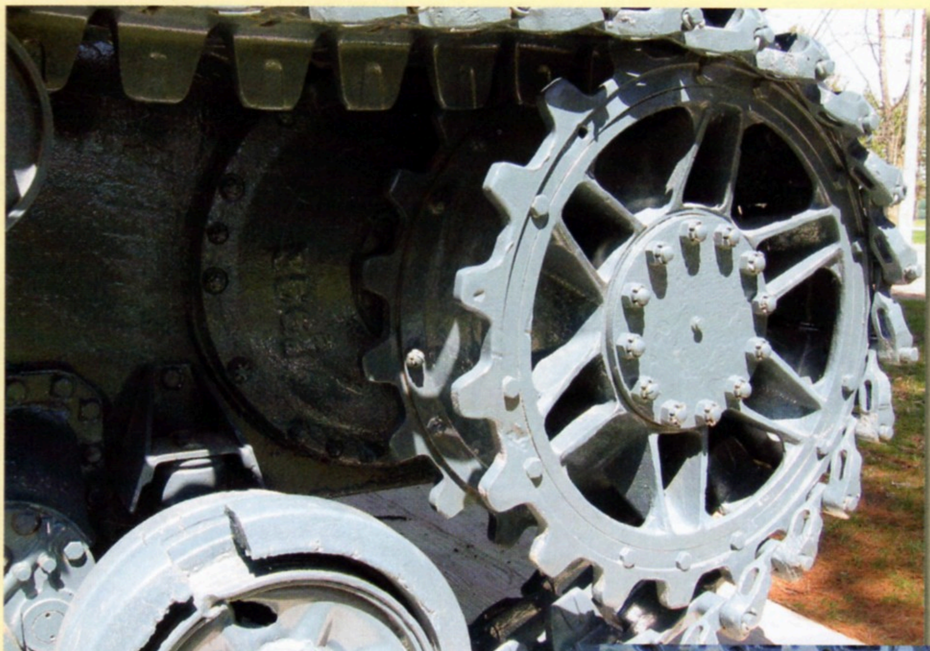
The layout of the turret can be seen well in this overhead photo. The gunner (who was also the vehicle commander) sat at the rear of the turret, with a loader on either side. Beside the loaders are racks for the 2cm ammunition clips. Up to 3,200 rounds, in 20 round clips, could be carried in a Wirbelwind. Storage containers for spare gun barrels are visible on either side of the engine deck. *Photo via David Doyle.*



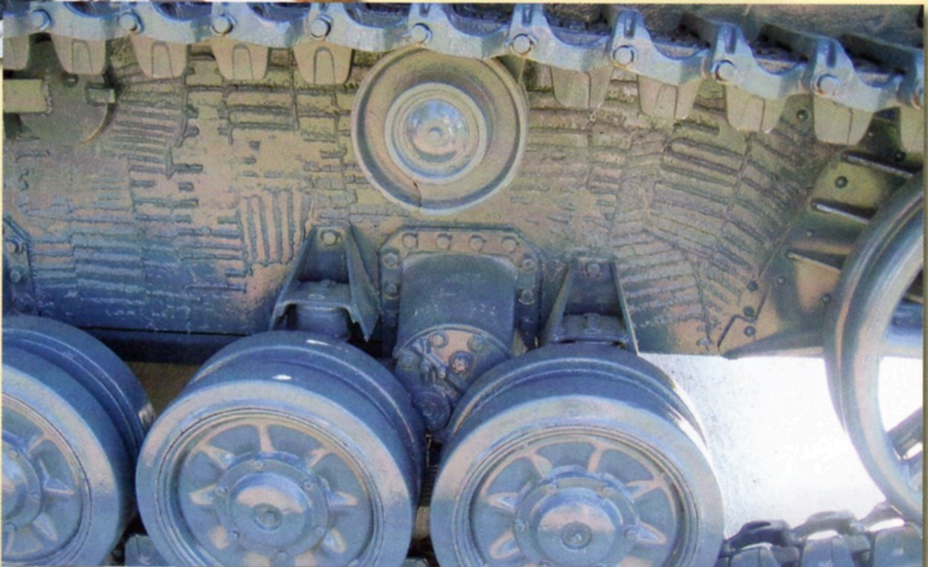
GIs inspect a pair of Wirbelwinds abandoned in Houffalize, Belgium in January 1945. These tanks were likely from either SS-sPZ.Abt. 501 or the 1st SS Panzer Division's SS Pz.Rgt. 1, both of which had Wirbelwinds on strength during the Ardennes offensive. The hole in the back of the rear vehicle's turret is a reminder of the thin armour on the Wirbelwind's turret. *Photo via David Doyle.*



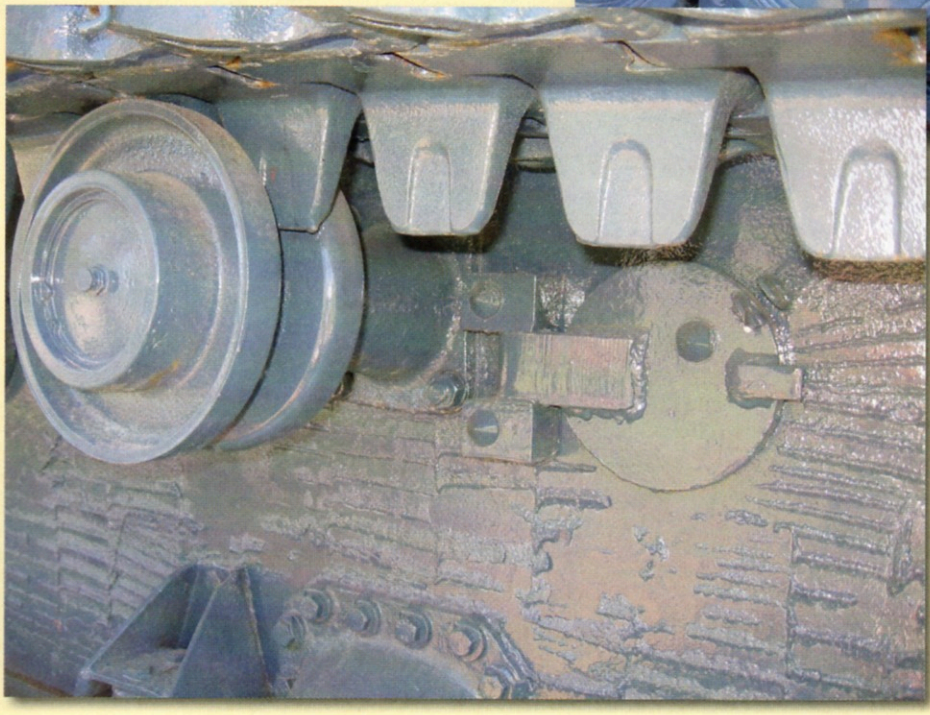
A captured Wirbelwind photographed at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. The left pair of guns are missing, but otherwise the tank is in relatively good shape. This tank was later returned to Germany and subsequently restored, becoming one of two survivors of the type. *Photo via David Doyle.*



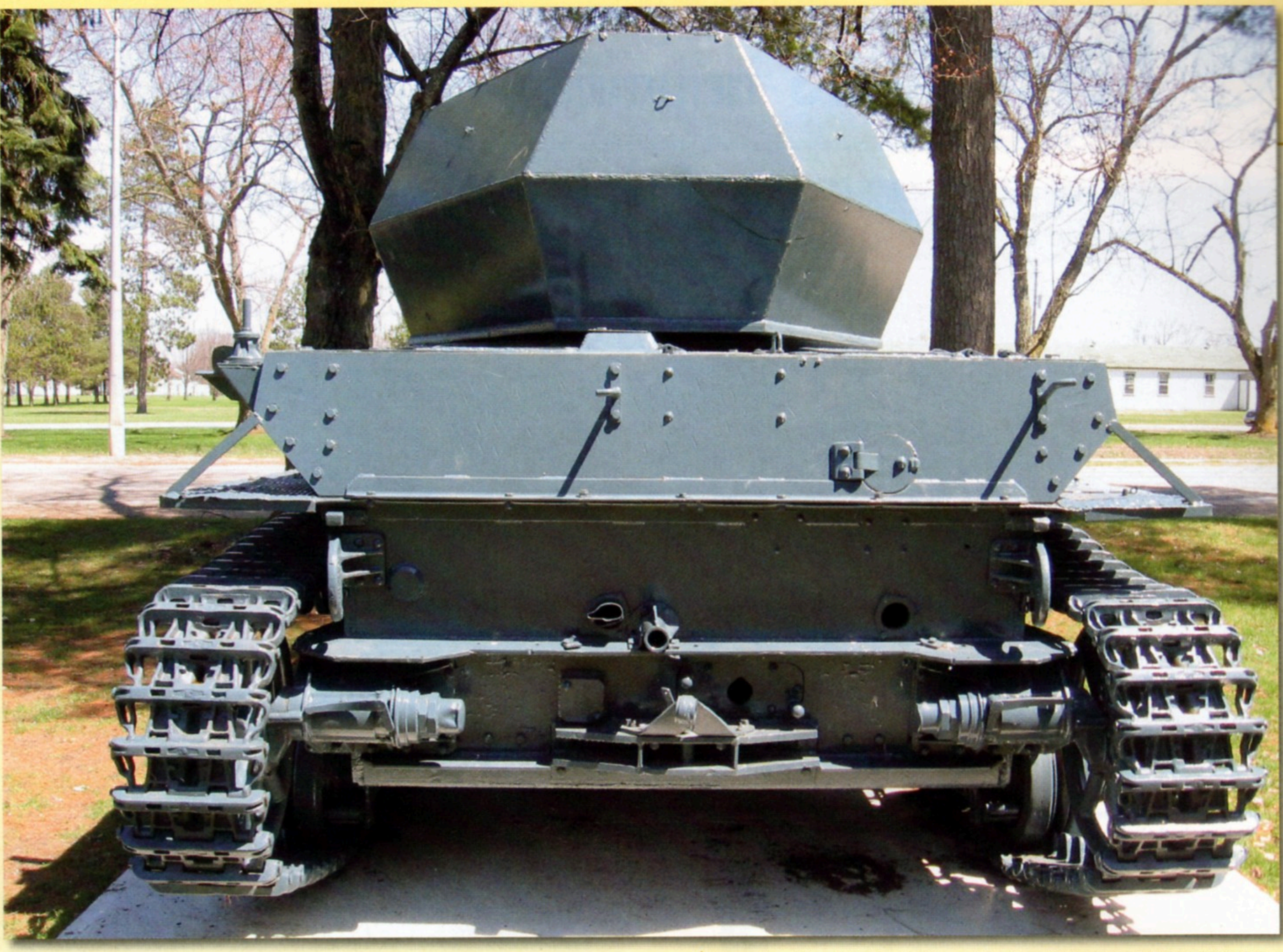
This vehicle has the later welded sprocket; details of the sprocket's construction can be seen here. Although hidden in shadow, the final drive housing is visible, complete with cast foundry numbers. The rubber on the forward road wheel has split, and some battle damage to the wheel is also evident.



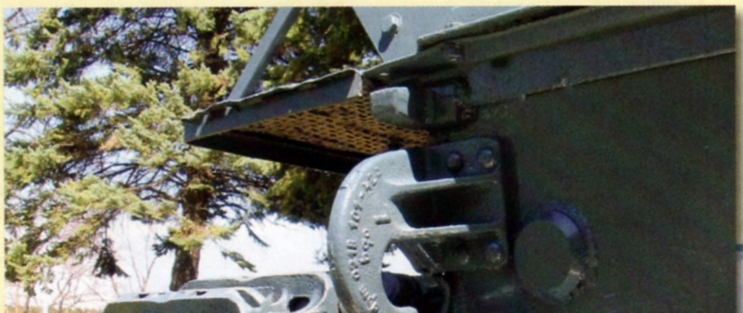
This is the left rear suspension station, showing details of the suspension mounts. There is a crack in the all-steel return roller at the top. Note that the rear suspension damper is significantly lower than the forward one. The zimmerit pattern can also be clearly seen; note how thin the application is.



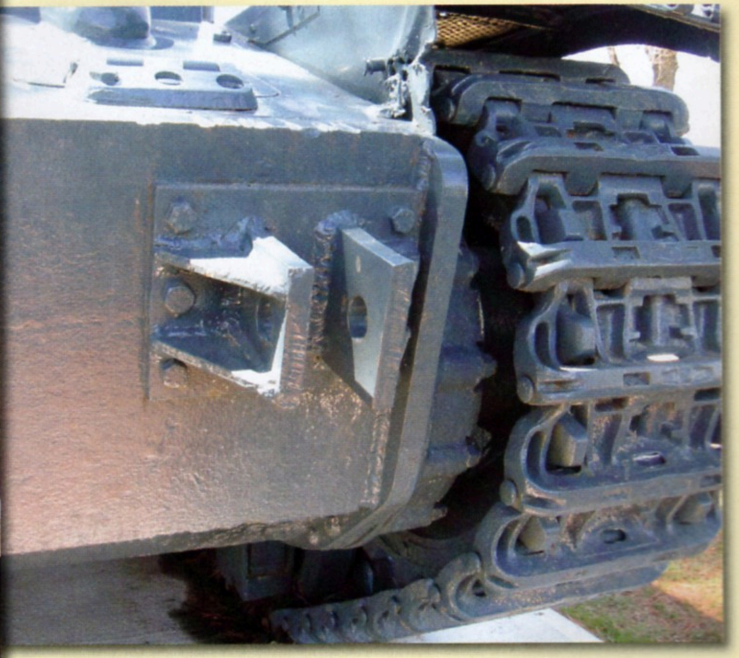
One of the two fuel filler caps on the left side of the hull. Notice the two hasps for a padlock at approximately the 2 o'clock position on the cap. The guide horns on the final model tracks show up well in this photo.



▲ A rear view of the vehicle. Based on the configuration of the lower rear hull plate, this tank is based on a late Ausf. H or Ausf. J hull.

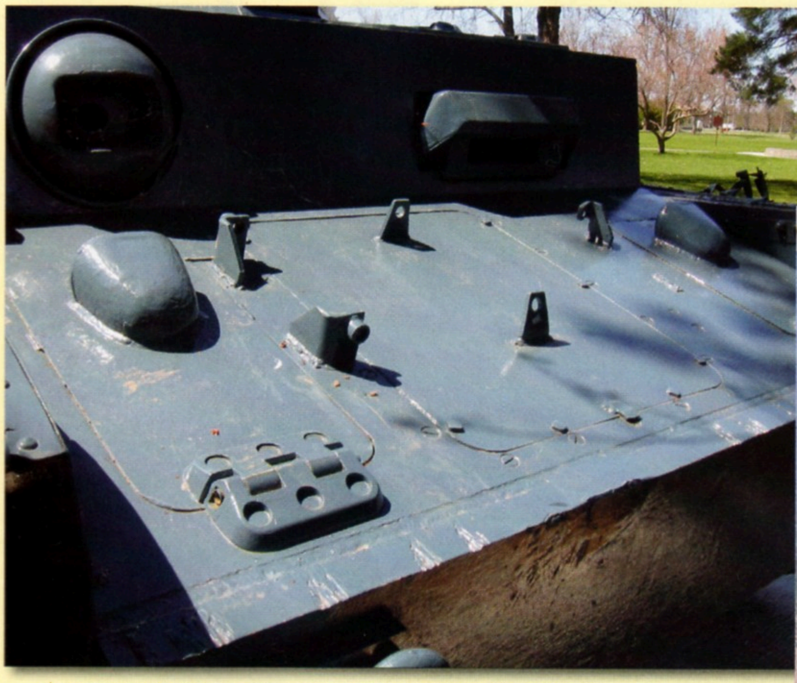


◄ The idler mount and track tension adjustment mechanism. While the hull rear plate configuration indicates a late production vehicle, the idler mounts are early production examples.



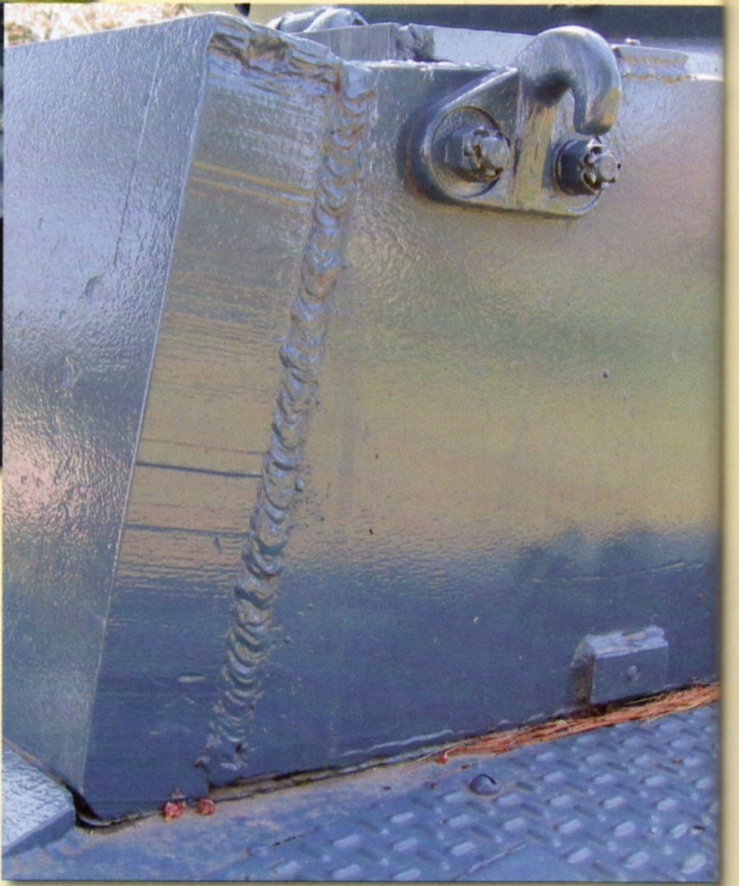
▲ The front towing brackets were damaged at some point, and these locally fabricated substitutes were added. The mounting plates are original, however.

References - THE FLAKPANZER IV 'WIRBELWIND'

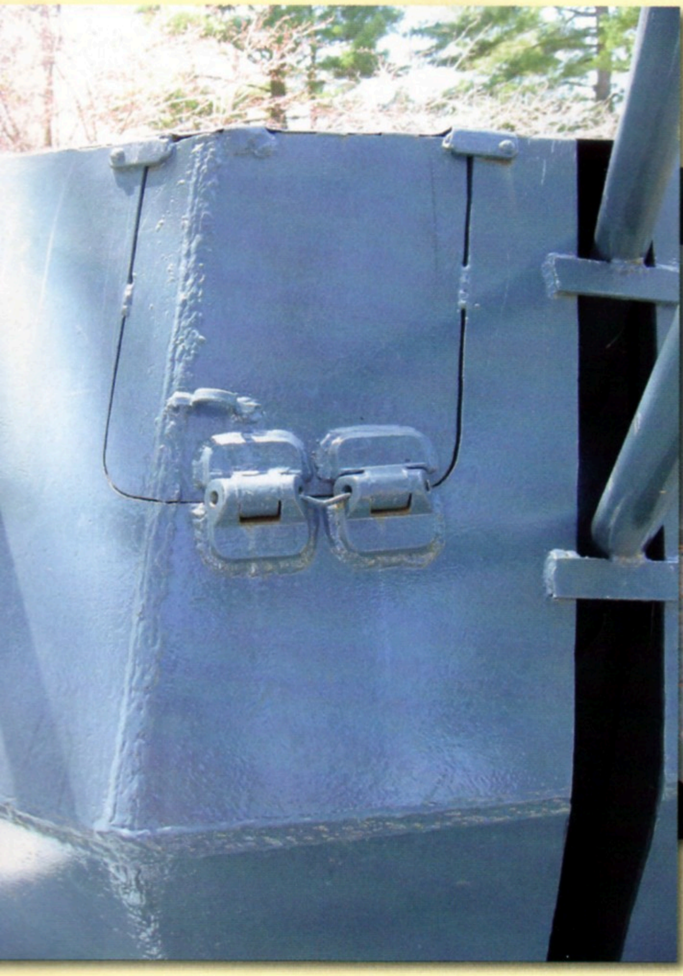


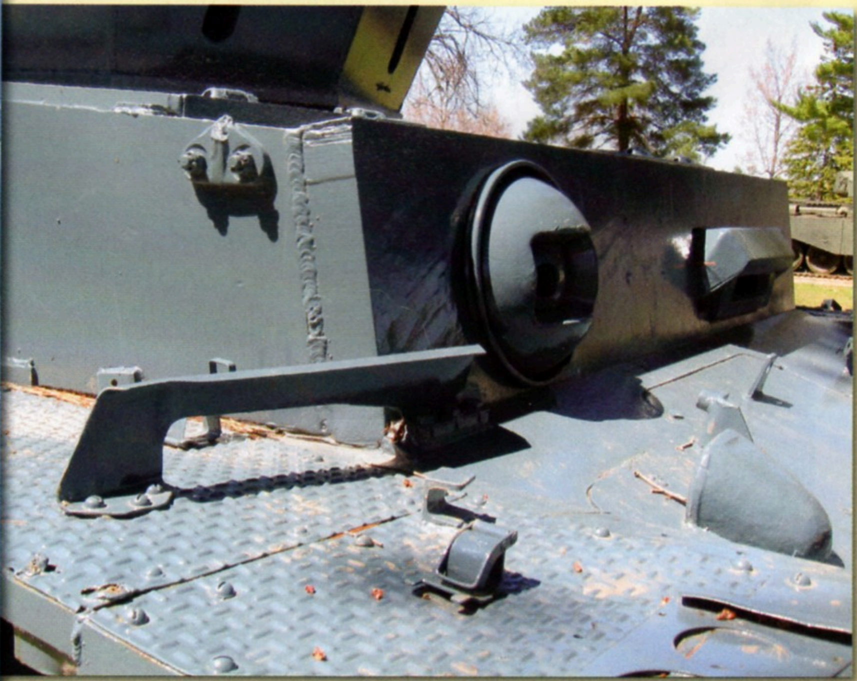
▲ Most of the brackets for securing spare track links are still present on the bow plate. The hinges for the brake access hatches can also be seen, along with a variety of weld seams, bolts, and screw heads on the bow plate.

▼ The left front corner of the superstructure. One of the lifting hooks can be seen, as well as the tread plate pattern on the fender. The rectangle at the bottom of the superstructure side is one of the attachment points for side skirt brackets; no Wirbelwinds are known to have carried side skirts, so this is a leftover from the tank's previous career.

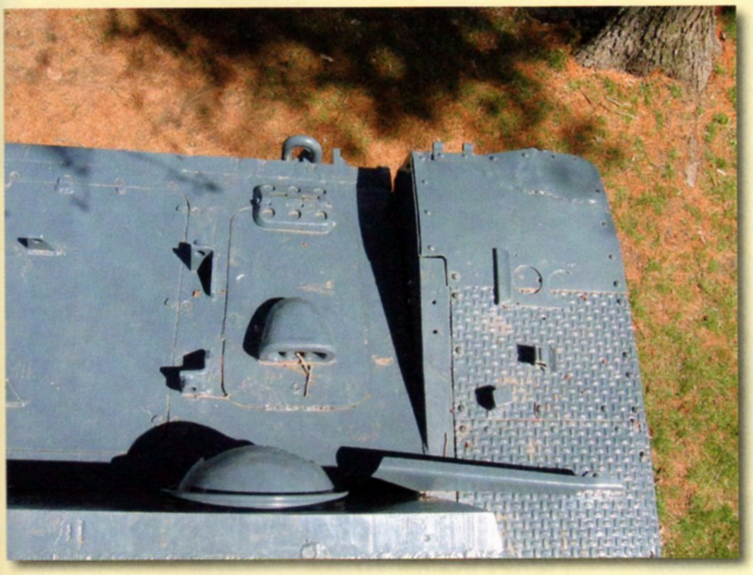


▼ To engage targets near the ground, an armoured flap could be opened to let the gunner/commander sight forwards. As can be seen, the flap extended over the centreline of the turret.

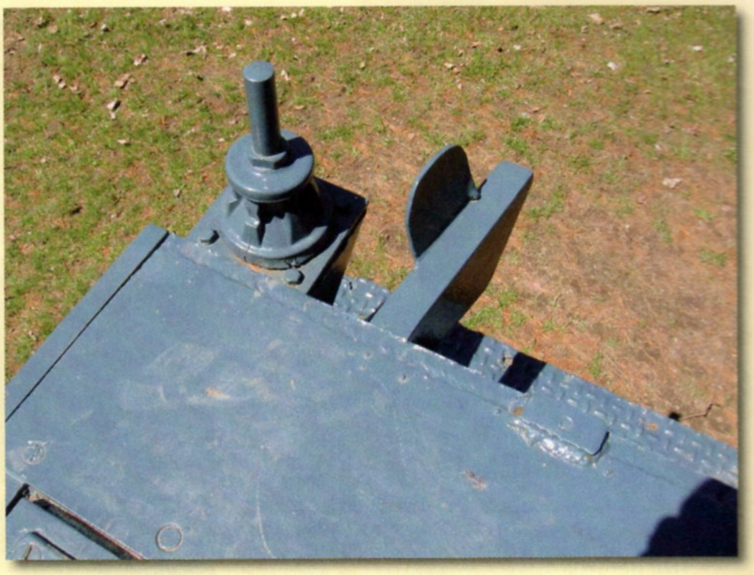




▲ The lifting hook on the right side has been broken, but the somewhat battered fender support remains. Some of the tool brackets are still present on the fender as well.

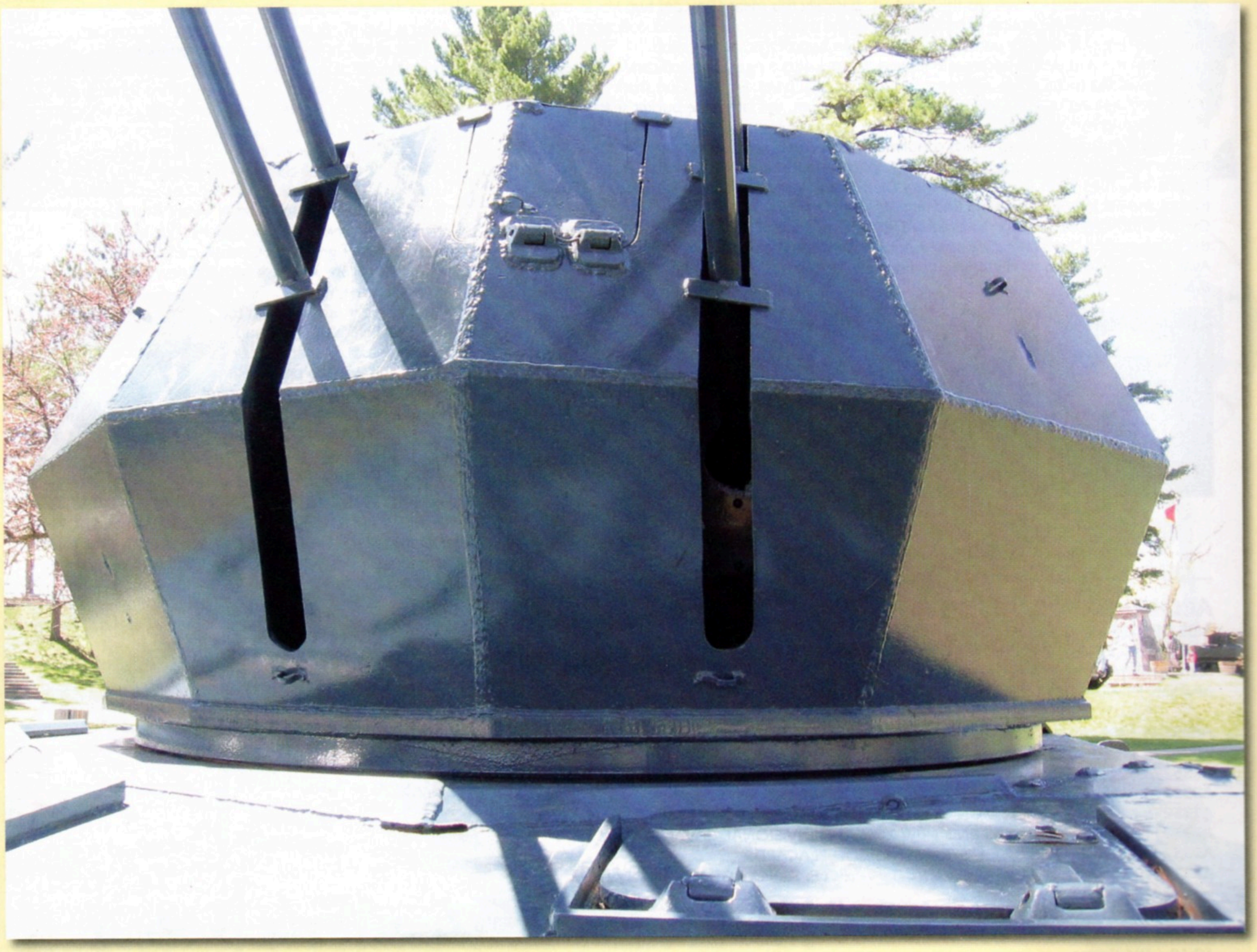


▲ **Looking down on the hull front plate, the vents in the brake access hatches can be seen. Some useful fender details are also visible.**



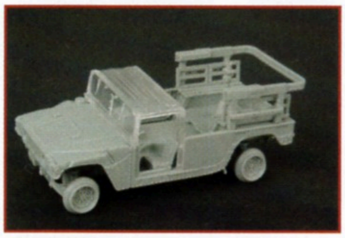
▲ **The antenna mount and spare barrel stowage bracket from above. To the right is the remnant of one of the side skirt mounts.**

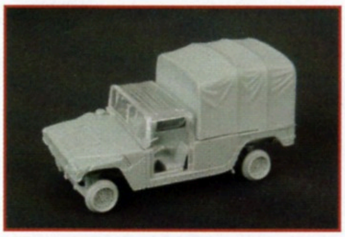
▼ **Looking at the front of the turret, the first thing to notice is that the 'guns' are in fact pipes welded into place and supported by pieces of metal welded into place. The guns and mounts are missing from this vehicle, and the turret interior is in sorry shape.**

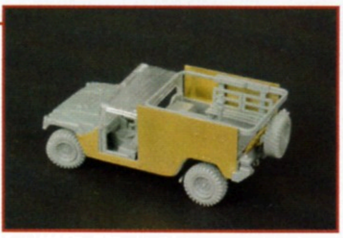


Incoming

HMMWV
1:72
1+1
M998 'Gun Truck'
M998 Troop Carrier
DRAGON







DRAGON

1:72 HMMWV
M998 'GUN TRUCK', TROOP CARRIER AND CARGO W/CANVAS TILT
ITEM NO. 7309

Just when you thought Dragon had covered just about every variant of the Humvee, they release the M998 which can be built as either the cargo version, troop carrier or the field modified 'Gun Truck'.

As with the previous Humvee kits this is a 1+1, basically this means you get two kits in the box giving the modeller the option of building two of the three versions included. It is worth noting that there isn't two of every part, so you can't make two of the same version.

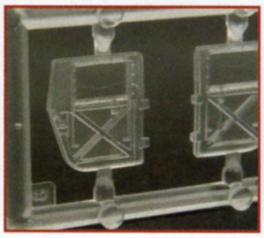
Apart from the two sets of bodies and wheels, there is also a nicely detailed canvas tilt and both canvas and metal doors which are included as clear parts. For the 'Gun Truck', we get a very well detailed M240 machine gun and pintle mount, the later style bucket seats are included along with different aerial mounts.

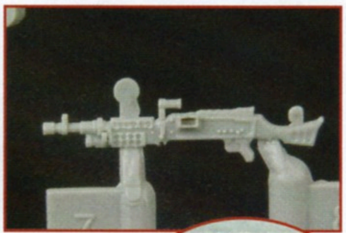
Two etched frets are included which contain the 'Gun Truck' armour and parts for the seats in the rear of the cargo version. Three marking options are included, 1st Infantry Div, 9th Engineer Brigade Iraq 2003 (Gun Truck), 1st Infantry Div 101st Military Intelligence Battalion, Iraq 2003 (cargo) and 1st Infantry Div, 82nd Engineer Brigade, Germany 2003.

Overall another great addition to Dragon's impressive range of 1:72 armour, I did however find the instructions to be a little confusing especially between the troop carrier and Gun Truck!

Available from all good model shops Worldwide.

8.5/10 - The Editor





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DARK WASH
For vehicles painted in allied green, panzer grey, german camo and dark colors.
ENAMEL TYPE WASH
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MIG PRODUCTIONS

DARK WASH

Mig Productions continue to produce those simple little products that once we have started to use, we don't know how we managed before.

Well this is certainly the case for these pre-mixed washes, OK some may say this is convenience modelling for the lazy, but I think they are a very useful product that has been thinned to the perfect consistency and the pigment used is virtually grain free. Something that cheaper quality oil paints can suffer with when thinned.

The other great advantage of using these pre-mixed washes is that it saves waste, every time I squeeze out some oil paint to make a wash I only ever use a fraction of what I have squeezed out, which means the rest goes to waste. With these washes you only use what's on the brush, unless you're clumsy enough like me to knock the entire jar over!!

This colour, as the label states is a dark wash and is therefore recommended for colours such as Allied greens, panzer greys and German camo, this wash would also work very well with the new NATO three colour scheme.

Another great product from the guys at Mig Productions who are very passionate about our hobby and want to produce products that are genuinely useful. Thoroughly recommended.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models or available direct from www.migproductions.com

10/10 - The Editor

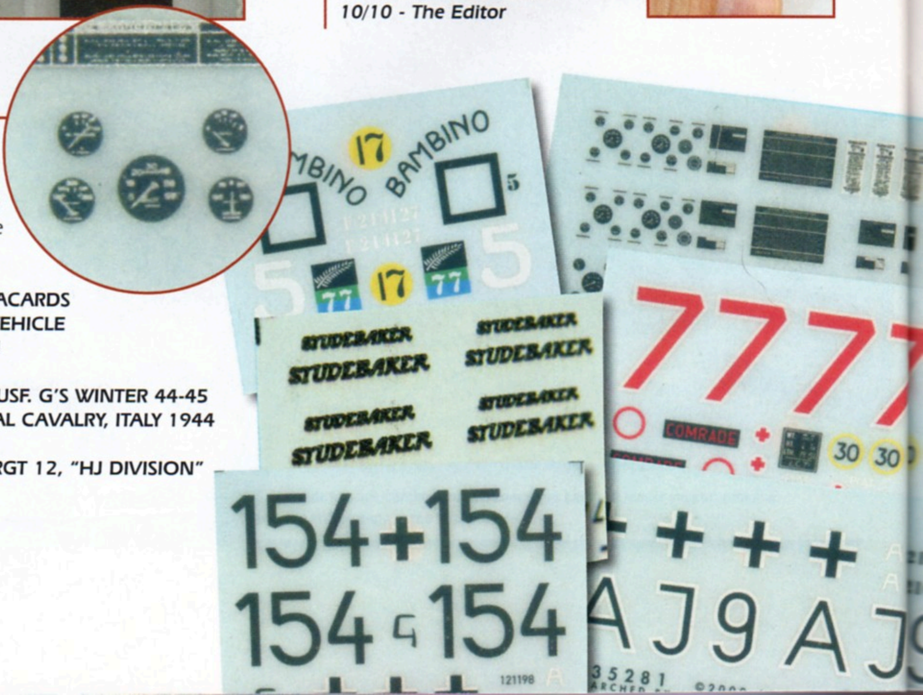
ARCHER FINE TRANSFERS

1:35 DRY TRANSFER DECAL SHEETS

I always look forward to receiving the latest dry-rub transfers from Archer. This month we have three sets for late Panther G's and five new sets for Allied WWII vehicles

AR35274 - M4 HIGH SPEED TRACTOR INSTRUMENTS AND PLACARDS
AR35275 - HJ PANTHER AUSF. G SS. PZ.RGT. 12 ADJUTANTS VEHICLE
AR35276 - 13/18 HUSSARS 'COMRADE' M4A2 DIRECT VISION
AR35277 - U.S. 6TH AD M4A3E2
AR35278 - 9SS PANZER DIVISION HOHENSTAUFEN Panther AUSF. G'S WINTER 44-45
AR35279 - STAGHOUND MK I 2ND NEW ZEALAND DIVISIONAL CAVALRY, ITALY 1944
AR35280 - STUDEBAKER US6 INSTRUMENTS AND PLACARDS
AR35281 - HJ Panther AUSF. G ADJUTANTS VEHICLE, SS. PZ. RGT 12, "HJ DIVISION"

Available from www.histoexagents.com in the UK
or direct from www.archertransfers.com
10/10 - The Editor



MAN V M4A4 CONVERSION SET
MIYA M4, M4A1 OR SHERMAN IC TO COMPLETE
GHTING 48TH!

FIGHTING 48TH

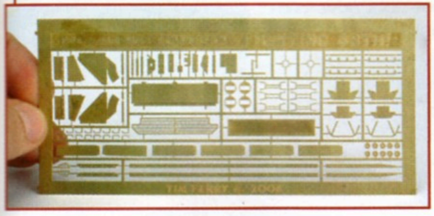
1:48 SHERMAN V M4A4 CONVERSION SET

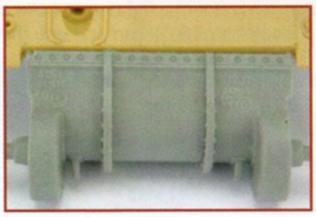
Fighting 48th are an all new company to MMI and have announced some great conversions and update sets for Tamiya's Shermans.

The first set we have been sent is designed to convert the radial engined M4 and M4A1 to the lengthened M4A4 featuring the Chrysler multi-bank engine, most associated with the 17 pdr armed Firefly. The conversion includes a beautifully cast and stunningly detailed new resin hull top and bottom, track extensions, tow hook, exhausts, and lifting eyes. The large photo-etched fret includes track skids to go on the top of the suspension units, front fenders, mudguard mounting strips, brush guards for the head and tail lights, smoke grenade boxes, periscope mounts and guards, exhaust deflector, handles and the grille for the rear hull overhang. The instructions are very good indeed and include clear and concise written instructions complemented by colour photos of the actual model and some funky CAD drawings, all of which make for an enjoyable build without any stress from not being able to decipher the instructions. Having just built (and really enjoyed building) the M4A1 for this issue, I really have the bug for building more involved models in this scale and I can't think of a better one to start than this superb Sherman V conversion. Whole heartedly recommended

Available from www.fighting48th.com

10/10 - The Editor





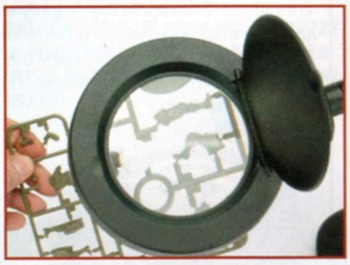
LITTLE CARS

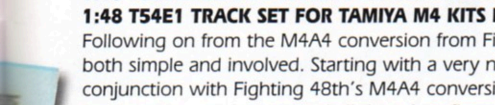
DESK TOP MODELLING LAMP AND MAGINIFIER

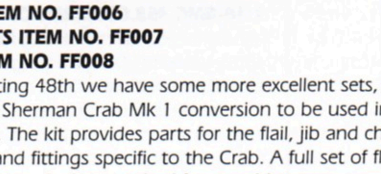
I hate to admit I'm getting older and I know my eyesight isn't what it used to be. I was always proud of how good my eyesight was for close-up detail work. Ever since I started modelling I have never used any form of magnifier to help me. Well I have had to start admitting defeat and think about some form of extra help and thankfully Little Cars have come to the help with their all in one Desktop Modelling Lamp and Magnifier. The clever design means it can be used as a normal desk lamp that emits a nice daylight balanced light and when needed the centre of the backing panel of the lamp can be flipped open to reveal the magnifier, which incidentally has a smaller more powerful magnifier incorporated into the main lens, but to be honest the main lens was more than adequate for all my needs. This is another of those products that will have it's place on my modelling desk from now on and not be confined to the shelf gathering dust once I have finished trying it for the review. The other good news is it retails for only about £16, making it excellent value for money.

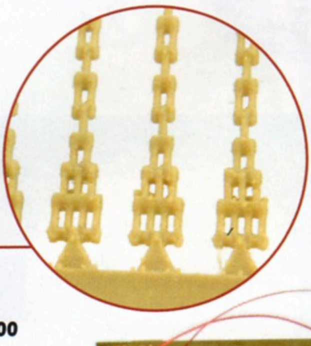
Available from www.little-cars.co.uk

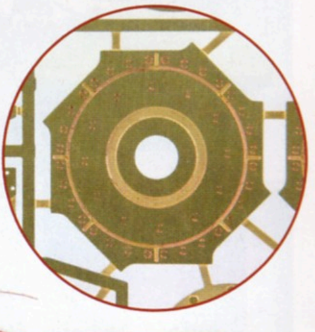
10/10 - The Editor











FIGHTING 48TH

M4 ETCH DETAIL PARTS FOR TAMIYA AND HOBBYBOSS SHERMANS ITEM NO. FF002
1:48 TOW SHACKLES 3 DIFFERENT STYLES, 4 OF EACH: USED ON M4 AND M10 ITEM NO. FF00
1:48 SHERMAN CRAB MK 1 CONVERSION SET ITEM NO. FF006
1:48 T62 ALTERNATE TRACK FOR TAMIYA M4 KITS ITEM NO. FF007
1:48 T54E1 TRACK SET FOR TAMIYA M4 KITS ITEM NO. FF008

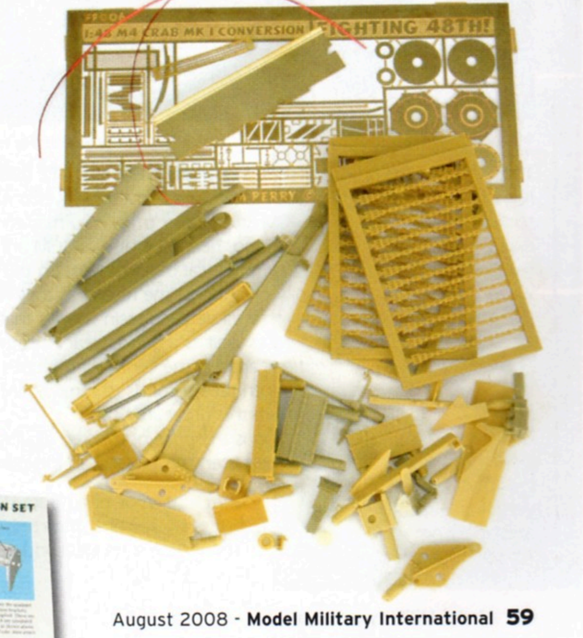
Following on from the M4A4 conversion from Fighting 48th we have some more excellent sets, both simple and involved. Starting with a very nice Sherman Crab Mk 1 conversion to be used in conjunction with Fighting 48th's M4A4 conversion. The kit provides parts for the flail, jib and chalk lane marking equipment and all the minor fixtures and fittings specific to the Crab. A full set of flail chains are provided as incredibly detailed resin castings. A photo etched fret provides many smaller components including the wire cutting blades on the ends of the rotor. The debris shield has been preformed from etched brass to make assembly even easier. Again a very good set of instructions are included which really help make this involved conversion as simple as possible.

Sherman fans are really being spoilt thanks to Fighting 48th who have released two new 'link and length' resin track sets both are the metal chevron variety. The T54E1 sets were commonly seen on US vehicles and can be used as a direct replacement to the rubber chevron type supplied in the Tamiya kits. The second set are most welcome for anyone building a British Sherman as these T62 metal chevron tracks which feature the distinctive rivet heads on the face of each link, are the type of track most often seen on 'British and Commonwealth.

Lastly we have a small etched fret which includes all the essential basics for detailing the Tamiya and Hobbyboss kits and a set of resin towing shackles, perfect for Shermanaholics such as myself who love these super-detail items

Available from www.fighting48th.com

9.5/10 - The Editor



1:48 SHERMAN CRAB MKI CONVERSI

1:48 SHERMAN CRAB MKI CONVERSION SET

JAGDPANZER 38 "HETZER" WINTERKETTEN
ATL-93
Geschützwagen VI 17 cm K 44 (Sf)
ATL-92

FRIULMODEL

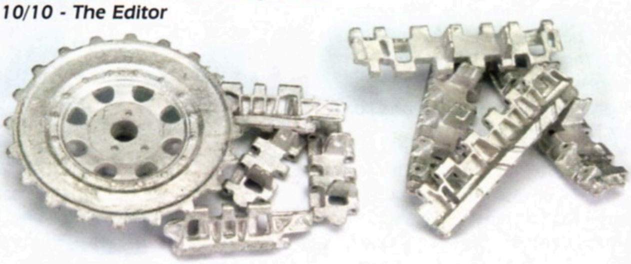
WHITE METAL INDIVIDUAL LINK TRACK SETS GESCHUTZWAGEN VI 17CM K44 (SF) ATL-92 JAGDPANZER 38 "HETZER" WINTERKETTEN ATL-93

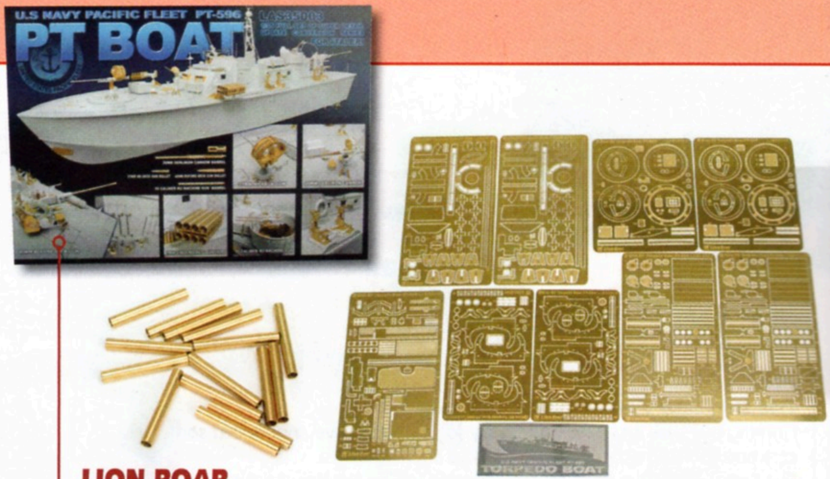
This month we see two new sets of tracks in from Friulmodel and both I'm sure will prove very popular. The first is for a vehicle that really would benefit from new track, and that is the 17cm Geschutzwagen from Trumpeter. This is a vehicle that really does need to be fitted with individual tracks that sag realistically under their own weight. The one piece vinyl style supplied in the kit are pretty good as this type of track get, but no matter how carefully they are glued to the tops of the road wheels just don't look as realistic.

The second set are for Tamiya's lovely little Hetzer, but instead of being a replacement set of standard tracks, these are the 'winterketten' tracks which feature extensions on the outer edge of each link designed to help lower the ground pressure when operating in snow or soft muddy conditions. Friulmodel also supply new white metal sprockets to ensure that the tracks are matched perfectly to the sprockets. Both sets are highly recommended, especially the set for the Geschutzwagen.

Available from www.historexagents.com

10/10 - The Editor





LION ROAR

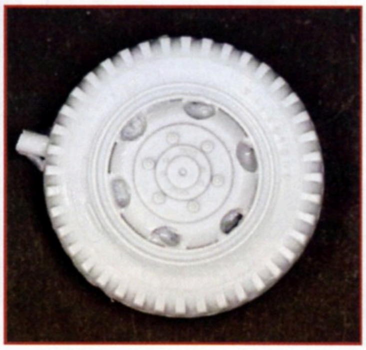
U.S NAVY PACIFIC FLEET PT-596 'PT-BOAT' ITEM NO. LAS35003

If you have been lucky enough to have a big enough modelling bench to build the awesome 1:35 Italeri 'ELCO' PT-Boat, then why not go the whole hog and get this ultimate update set. In brief you get nine etched brass frets in varying thicknesses, sixteen pieces of tube to make up the 5-inch rocket launchers, turned brass barrels for the 40mm Bofors gun, 20mm Oerlikon and the twin M2 .50 cal machine guns. Three nicely cast brass propellers are also included and with a bit of polishing with some of Master Caster's polishing sticks from Cammet will look absolutely stunning. The set also includes some beautifully detailed turned brass ammunition for the 40mm Bofors and 37mm M9 deck gun. Putting my geek's anorak on for a moment the box top states that 37mm and 40mm 'Bullets' are included, well bullets as in machine gun bullets only go up to 15mm, 15mm and above then become shells and the guns are referred to as cannons. Right I have taken the anorak off now.

I never got one of the ELCO's in for review, TMMI's Editor stole it and started it before I had chance to check it out, but what I can say is that just looking through this set has really got me wanting to build one right now, even though I have a million and one things I need to finish first. Thoroughly recommended.

Available from www.armour-models.co.uk

10/10 - The Editor



TANKWORKSHOP

1:35 STUDEBAKER US6 WHEEL SET (ICM) ITEM NO. STZ 034

New to Tankworkshops' 'Tank Maker' range is a most welcome set of replacement wheels for the ICM Studebaker truck. You may remember my review of the kit a few months ago, heaped praise on ICM and I could really only find flaw with the symmetrical tread pattern on the wheels. Wearing a blue cape it's Tankworkshop to the rescue as they replace all ten wheels, and the spare, with well detailed resin wheels that feature the correct offset tread pattern as well as a good, clear Firestone logo. There is a small amount of flash around the centre of the tyres and a small casting plug which will both take seconds to remove and this doesn't take anything away from this great little set.

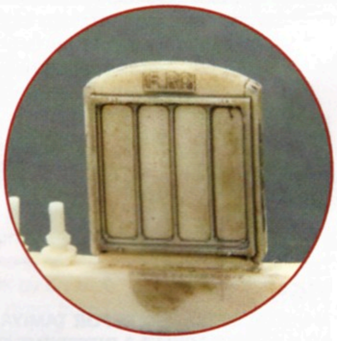
Another thing worth mentioning is the price of this set, at only 20 US Dollars for eleven full resin wheels then this is really an inexpensive and worthwhile addition to your model.

Very highly recommended

Available from www.Tankworkshop.com

10/10 - Graeme Carruthers

GMC 353 Compresor Le Roi
Conversion set 1/48
CMK



CMK

1:48 GMC 353 COMPRESSOR LE ROI CONVERSION ITEM NO. 8027

I knew it wouldn't take long for the aftermarket manufacturers to start producing conversions for Tamiya's gorgeous little quarter scale GMC 2-1/2 ton truck and thankfully CMK have been one of the first.

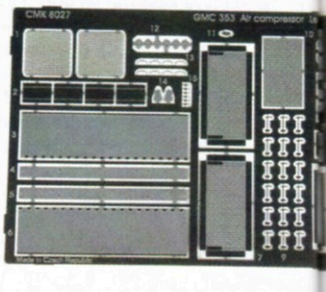
The conversion set consists of 32 crisply cast cream coloured resin parts, the radiators even contain the tiny Le Roi trade mark, amazing! An etched brass fret contains the remaining fixtures and fittings such as the mesh grilles for the radiators, stowage bin lids, tread plating reflectors and locking clasps. The etched parts are, I believe produced by Eduard, so quality is guaranteed. The stowage lockers mounted on either side can be built with the lids opened or closed, but if you decide to open them you will need to source your own equipment, hoses and tools to fill them.

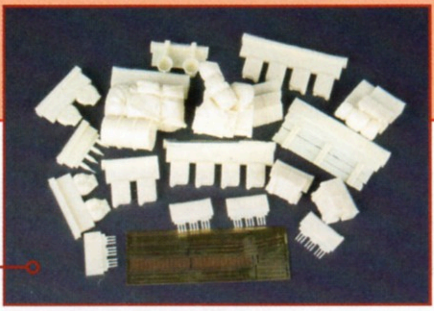
CMK include a clear set of instructions which have been broken down into 13 easy to follow stages, the instruction sheet also includes a simple painting guide and a illustrated parts list making identification straightforward.

The Le Roi is a great choice and I must commend CMK for producing such an excellent conversion and it has definitely fallen into the 'I must build this one' category even if in reality I will never have the time. The Le Roi also offers loads of diorama potential for both military and aircraft modellers alike and one I cannot recommend 100%

Available from Hannants in the UK or from www.cmkkits.com direct

10/10 - The Editor

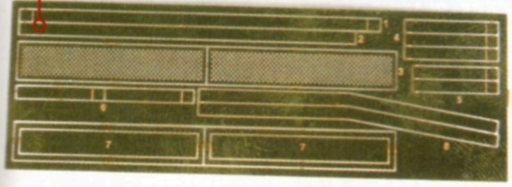




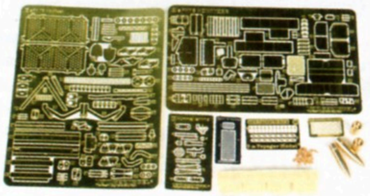
LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

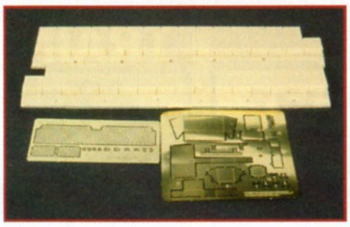
1:48 STUG. III STOWAGE SET ITEM NO. LF4102

Not forgetting 1:48 scale armour, Legend have started to produce some much needed stowage sets for the army of quarter scale armour on the market. As usual Legend are more than generous with the amount of bits included, as there is certainly more than enough to completely stow one vehicle. Also included is a small etched brass fret to make up the engine deck stowage frame along with a pair of intake-grille mesh screens. All the usual items are included from an oil drum to jerry cans and boxes to buckets, one thing that caught my eye in particular were the wooden boxes, which look exactly like the type of U.S. ration boxes seen on the Tamiya Shermans. I only know this as I was silver medallist in the 1988 U.K. Olympic box spotting team! I guess a box is a box to most, but not to me, I eat, sleep and breath boxes since only winning the silver they have become my obsession until that elusive gold will be nine at this summer's games!
Well detailed and flawlessly cast this set offers plenty of stowage to give Tamiya's StuG that distinctive cluttered look.
Available from www.friendshipmodels.com
9.5/10 - The Editor



VOYAGER MODEL
PE 35207
WWII sFH-18 150mm Howitzer
PE 35228
WWII Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf L
PE 35229
WWII Jagdpanther G1 Early Version

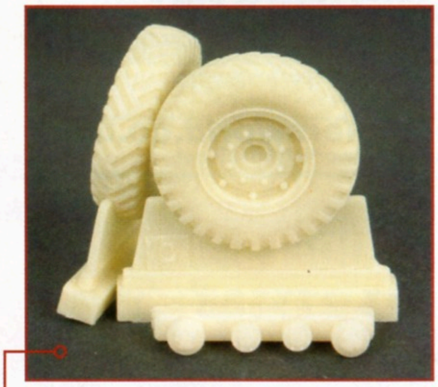




VOYAGER MODEL

1:35 DETAIL SETS

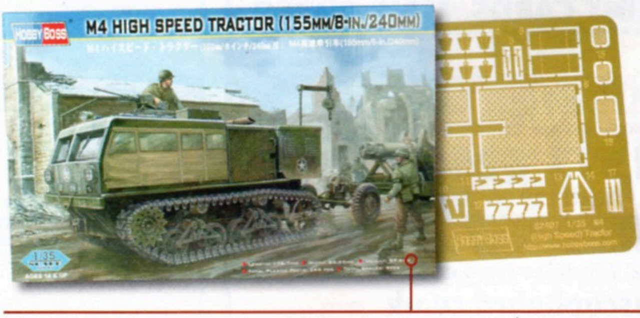
Voyager certainly are producing some interesting and varied detail sets which not only include the etched frets but also contain turned brass parts and resin parts, soft copper cable, brass chain and lengths of plastic rod as appropriate.
Highlights for me this month are the Reactive Armour update set for the M1A2 which features some superbly cast resin armour modules and some very useful brass details on the two small frets. My second favourite is the set for the FH-18 Howitzer, which really is a set for the super detailer. This set contains two large frets which include items such as perforated ground spades and numerous storage boxes and pioneer tool clamps and clasps along with three smaller frets, two turned brass rounds of ammo, chain and some lengths of plastic rod and steel wire. Some great sets that really will make a difference and genuinely improve the models they are designed for.
Highly recommended.
WWII SFH-18 150MM HOWITZER FOR DRAGON KIT ITEM NO. PE 35207
MODERN US ARMY M1A2 ABRAMS REACTIVE ARMOUR MODULES FOR DRAGON 3536 ITEM NO. PE 35213
WWII B1 BIS GERMAN ARMY ITEM NO. PE 35218
WW II FRENCH ARMOURED CARRIER UE ITEM NO. PE 35227
WWII PZ.KPFW.III AUSF. L FOR TAMIYA KIT ITEM NO. 35228
WWII JAGDPANTHER AUSF. G EARLY VERSION FOR DRAGON KIT 6458 ITEM NO. PE 35229
Available from www.voyager model.com and White Ensign in the UK.
10/10 - The Editor

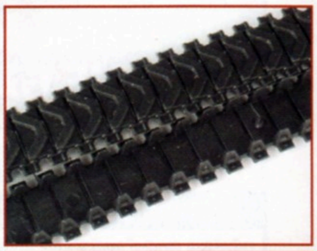


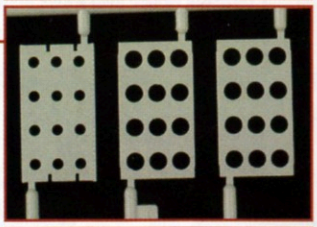
CMK BLITZ LINE ARMOUR ACCESSORIES

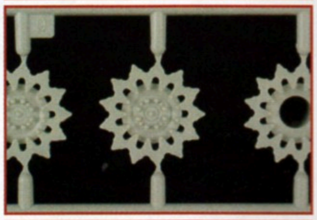
1:35 QUAD FORD 4X4 WHEELS ITEM NO. B35009

Following on from the Dunlop wheels for the Tamiya Quad 4x4 we featured in last month's Incoming, we now have the wheel set featuring the Firestone cross country pattern tyres. As before the wheels are neatly cast in a cream polyurethane resin with the correct bolt detail on the split wheel hubs. Separate hub centres are provided for the front and rear wheels together with separate inner hubs for the rear set of wheels. It's nice to see some optional wheel sets being produced for allied vehicles, even for Tamiya's venerable old Quad.
Available from www.cmkkits.com
9.5/10 - The Editor









HOBBY BOSS

1:35 M4 HIGH SPEED TRACTOR (155MM/8 IN/240MM) KIT NO. 82408

Just as publicised by Hobby Boss the second M4 HST is the 155mm/8 inch/240mm and a welcome stablemate to the 3 inch/90mm. As you would expect, Hobby Boss have revisited the first kit adding the parts to represent the late production vehicle from WWII and the Korean wars. Much of the kit is a copy of the 3 inch/90mm, as previewed in March 2008, so I won't go over old ground. The key to the differences are held on sprue F, this holds the rear cargo panels that contain the onboard ammunition, also included are the later drive wheels and return rollers. An additional change is the inclusion of a set of T48 rubber chevron tracks, these like the T49 3 bar cleat metal tracks included in the first kit have been nicely produced as one piece items in black vinyl, they will need to have the moulding nipples removing from their inner face and I would recommend giving them the 'once over' with a piece of Scotch-Brite prior to painting to ensure the paint has the best possible key to stick to.
As before the standard of detail is good with added extras of a brass fret, brass chain, nylon rope and window masks making this kit well worth the money. Of course the only restriction on detail is you and your wallet, having said that, this will make an excellent out-of-the-box kit. If you wish to model the earlier version then a small amount of alteration to the ammo carrier is required, select your subject and consult the reference books available.
This is a welcome kit to add to the many AFV Club Long Toms that must be being stored away, just add ammunition and crew and you have the makings of a great diorama. I congratulate Hobby Boss for a pair of first-rate kits on this near forgotten subject.
Available from all good model shops
9/10 - Ian McGonagle.

Next Issue

On sale August 7th 2008

"HANS, I THINK THEY WANT IT BACK"

Matt Wellhouser incorporates Trumpeter's 1:16 T34/85 into this stunning Eastern Front 1945 diorama.

E-10
september 1946

LAST RESORT

Jan Peter's builds our second Trumpeter kit review, the E-10 and puts it in action in a 'what if' 1946 setting.

D-DAY 'LOST IN HELL'

José Brito recreates one of his favourite periods in history with this Normandy vignette.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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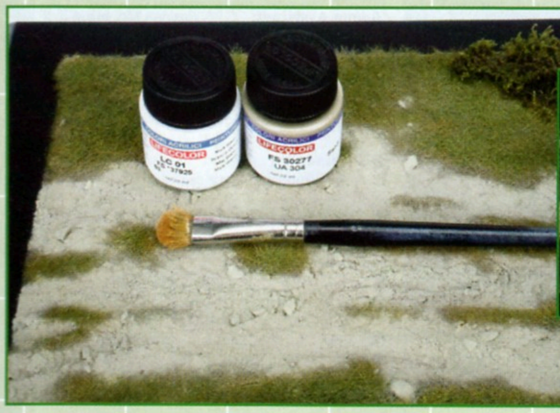
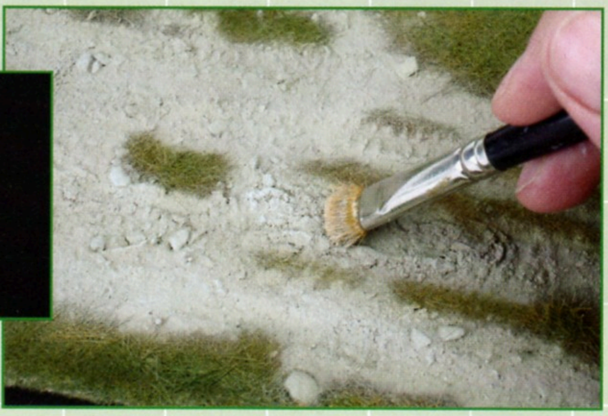
MAKING SIMPLE GROUNDWORK PART 7

Finishing off the groundwork and starting work on the figures.

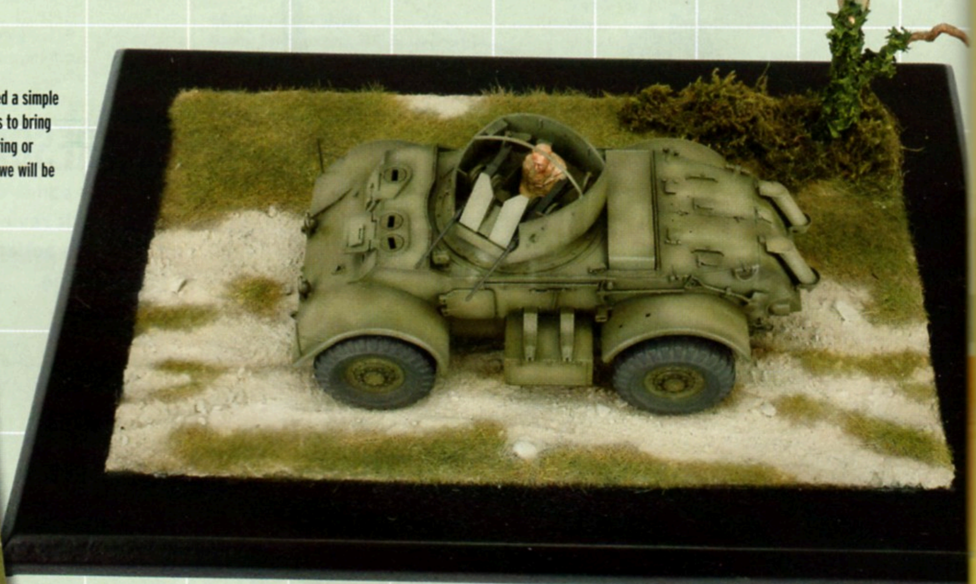

LIFECOLOR
LC 01
LIFECOLOR
FS 30277
UA 304

The last work needed to complete the groundwork involves some dry-brushing over the dirt track, to emphasise the texture of the soil. I used the original Lifecolor Sand mixed with Matt White and used an old brush with worn out bristles.

Only a small amount of sand was added to the white. Don't be afraid that the contrast will be too stark by using too much white as a lot of this colour gets absorbed by the base colour.



As I have used an old worn out brush it is best to apply the dry-brushing using a circular scrubbing motion instead of the usual gentle side-to-side 'flicking' motion.

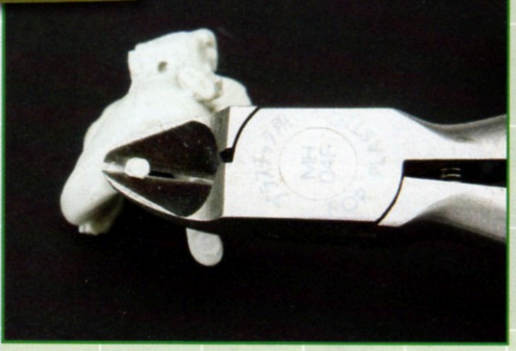


Even though the model isn't finished a simple scene such as this one really starts to bring it to life, even without any weathering or figures, which incidentally is what we will be covering next.

Recommended reading: The World War II Tommy, Brayley & Ingram. The Crowood Press
35.596
Infantry radio team
RESICAST
517 Vieux Chemin de Binche- 7000 Mons - Belgium
http://www.resicast.com
email: infos@resicast.com
Recommended reading: The World War II Tommy, Brayley & Ingram. The Crowood Press
35.595
Soldier kneeling
RESICAST
517 Vieux Chemin de Binche- 7000 Mons - Belgium
http://www.resicast.com
email: infos@resicast.com

To populate the scene I have chosen some of the resin British Infantry Figures from Resicast. I have chosen these figures as we were sent them in for review several months ago and feature exactly the poses I was after.

These Resicast figures are beautifully cast and only require the casting plugs to be removed from the bottom of their boots.



Thanks to the resin Resicast use, the plugs can simply be snipped off as the resin isn't brittle, this can be done with a good quality set of side cutters, such as these from Tamiya. Final clean up can be completed with a sanding stick or careful scraping with a scalpel or X-acto style hobby knife.

Before any assembly takes place a hole is drilled into his knee into which a length of brass rod will be inserted (if the figure was standing, this would be done through the bottom of a foot). This is done to ease handling during painting.

USAF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Thunderbirds

F16C [BLOCK 32/52]
"THUNDERBIRDS"

《About the Thunderbirds》

The Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron is one of the world's most elite aerobatic teams. Since their founding in 1953, they have flown their frontline fighter jets at airshows throughout the U.S. and in over 60 countries around the world, serving as ambassadors for the U.S. Air Force and promoting international goodwill.

Images show assembled model with separately available Detail Up Parts Set.

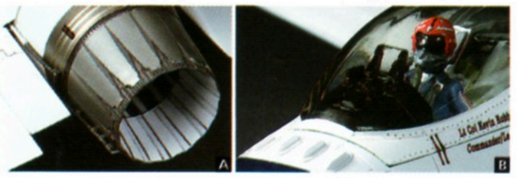
Wings of Thunder

1/48 F-16C [Block 32/52] "Thunderbirds" Item 61102

The Thunderbirds pilots are all chosen from among the Air Force's best, and fly the advanced F-16C Fighting Falcon®. Tamiya has reproduced this aircraft in stunning detail as a 1/48 scale assembly kit model, and has even provided modelers with the option to build either the Block 32 that is currently in use, or the new Block 52 that the team will transition to in 2009. Fine differences such as the landing gear have all been carefully included for the highest accuracy. Cartograf decals recreate the unmistakable Thunderbirds markings, even the special U.S. Air Force 60th Anniversary emblem from 2007. With this model kit, fans can experience a part of the Thunderbirds' 50-plus years of history.

LOCKHEED MARTIN, F-16 Fighting Falcon, associated emblems and logos, and body designs of vehicles are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Lockheed Martin Corporation in the USA and/or other jurisdictions, used under license by Tamiya.

Canopy can be posed open or closed
Colorful Thunderbirds markings
Accurate small air intake
Different landing gear parts for Block 32 and Block 52
Length: 316mm



A Tamiya's attention to detail extends to the aircraft's special smoke dispenser nozzle. B Thunderbirds pilot figure included with markings replicated by decals. IFF antennae for Block 52 included.

For those who crave the ultimate finish, this high-quality parts set, which features metal pitot tube and AOA (Angle of Attack) sensors as well as photo-etched seatbelts, reinforcing plates, and radar absorbing plate is also available.

1/48 Lockheed Martin® F-16 Fighting Falcon® Detail Up Parts Set (Item 12621)

REPUBLIC F-84G "THUNDERBIRDS"

The first aircraft used by the Thunderbirds is also available as a 1/48 scale assembly kit. Place this model next to the F-16 for a display of the Thunderbirds' history.

1/48 Aircraft Series Republic F-84G "Thunderbirds" (Item 61077)

TAMIYA

TAMIYA,INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA,SURUGA-KU
SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN